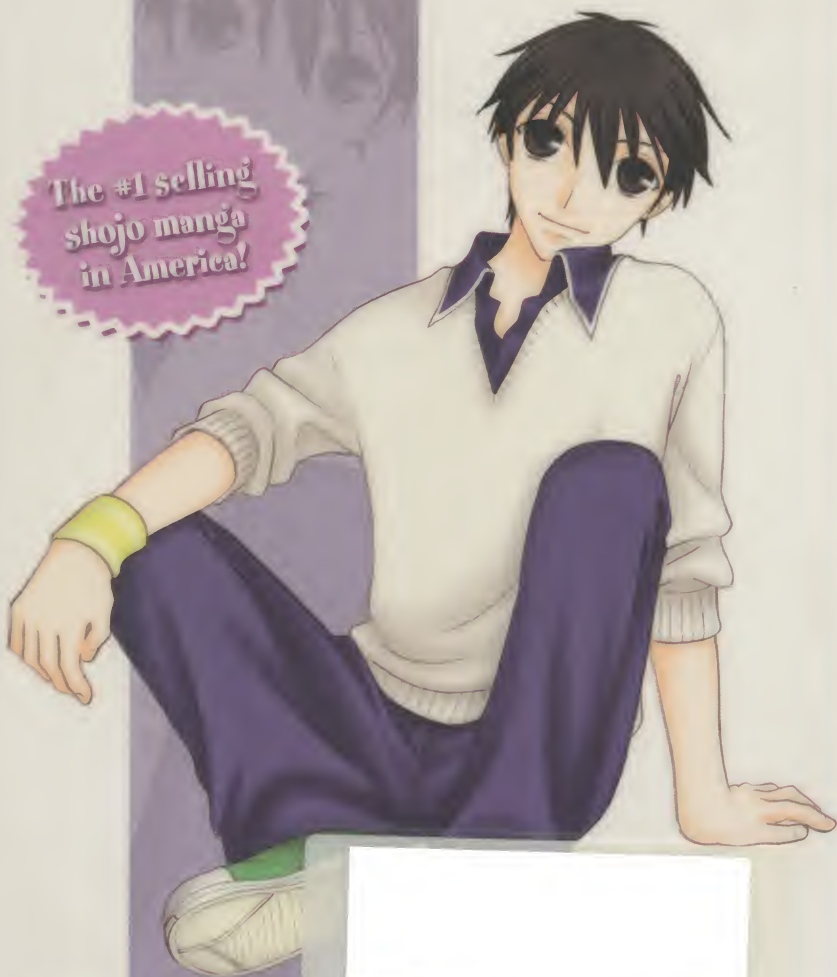


Fruits Basket

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shojo manga
in America!



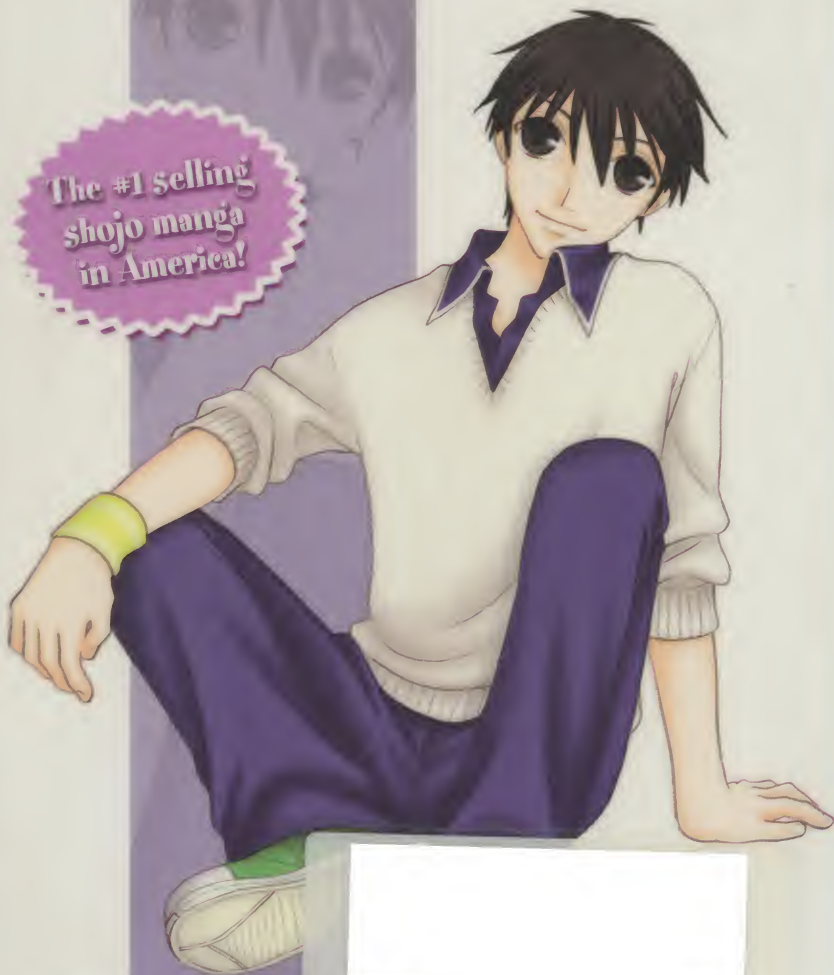
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Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

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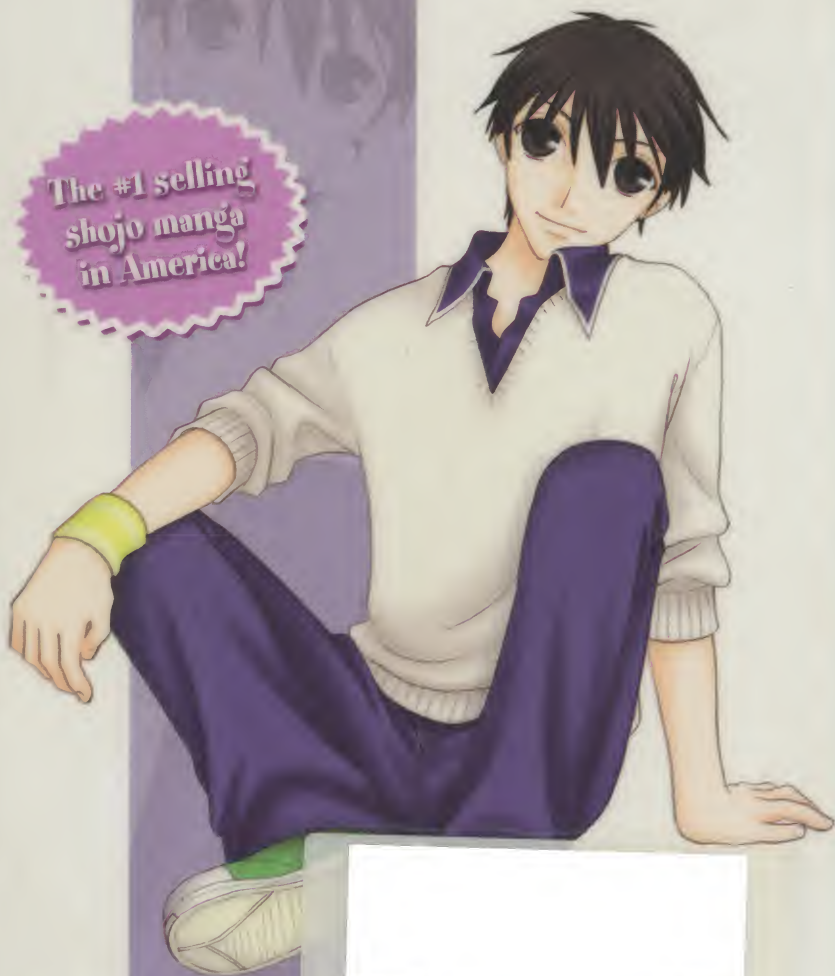
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Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket

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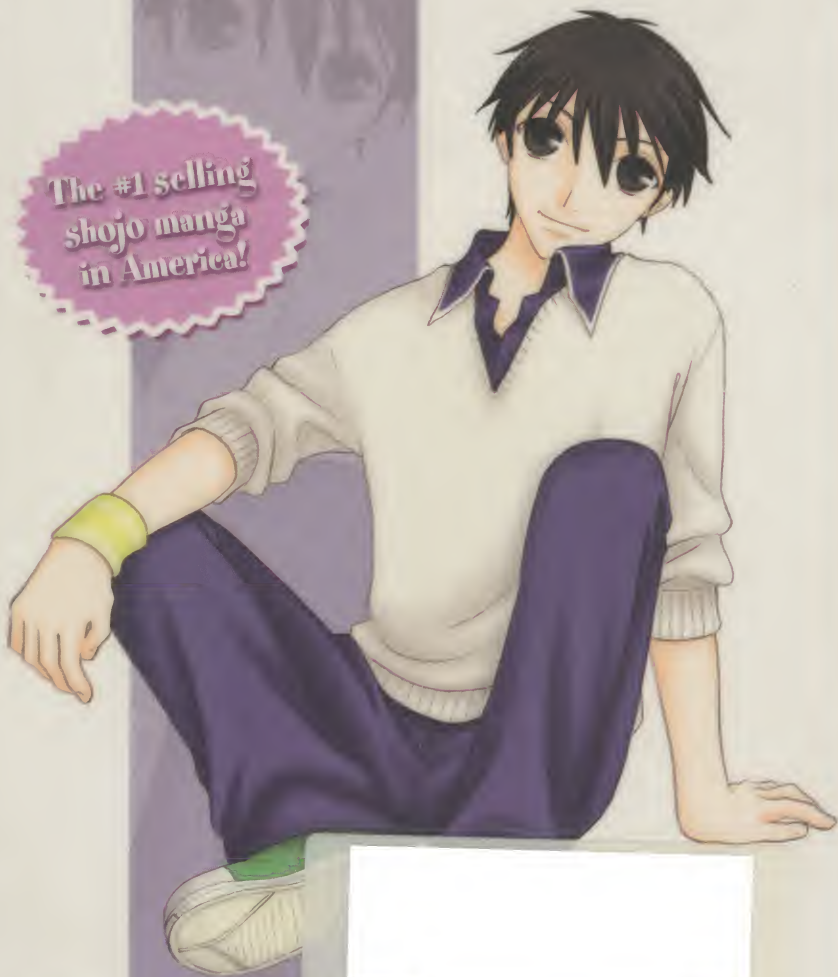
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Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket

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19

Natsuki Takaya

As the *Fruits Basket* saga continues, the relationship between Tohru and Kyo becomes increasingly complicated, especially since most of the members of the Zodiac seem to look down on him. Tohru comes to the realization that if she wants to save Kyo, she'll have to create some sort of trigger to break his curse. But what, if anything, can cure Kyo? The answer is right inside this next volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*!



Winner of the
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Award for Best
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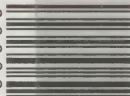


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Fruits Basket

Volume 19



Natsuki Takaya

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, that person changes into his or her Zodiac animal!



Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters

Mabudachi Trio



Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

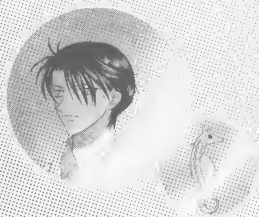


Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic heroine of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

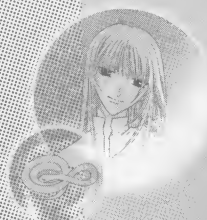
Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



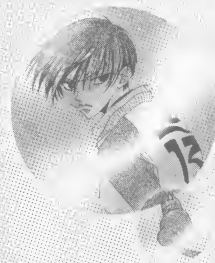
Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school, he's called "Prince Yuki."



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

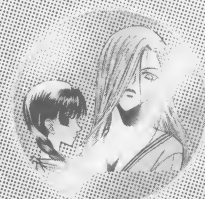
The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends

Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



Fruits Basket Characters

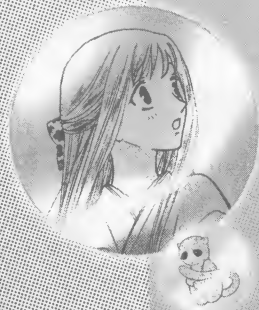
Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru)...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.



Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy, kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Cross-dressing calms his nerves.

Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.



Kureno Sohma, the Rooster (or bird)

He is Akito's very favorite, and spends almost all of his time on the Sohma estate, tending to Akito's every desire. Kureno was born possessed by the spirit of the Bird, but his curse broke long ago...which means we've never seen him transformed. He pities Akito's loneliness, and can't bring himself to leave her.



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.



Akito Sohma

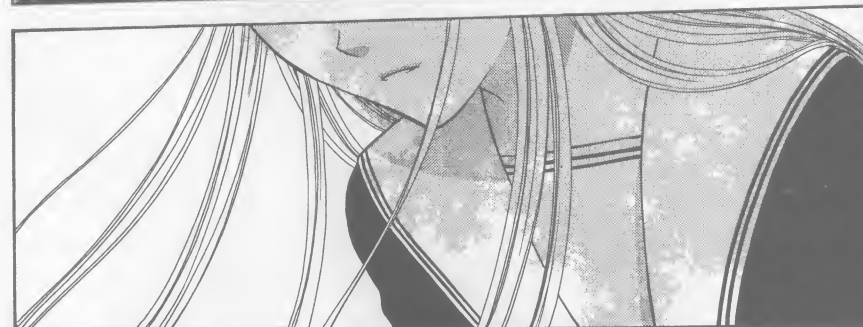
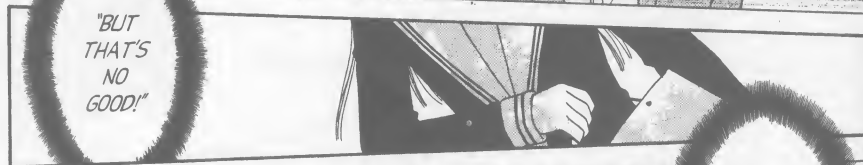
The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence. It has recently been revealed that Akito is actually a woman!

Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



"God"





WH-WHAT
DO I DO?

WHY DID
I RUN?

MAYBE NOW
THEY'LL
DISCOVER...

...HOW I
REALLY
FEEL.

SHIGURE-
SAN.



HUH?

I GUESS
TOHRU-SAN
LEFT.



MAYBE SHE
THINKS WE'RE
BUSY--I CAN
SEE HER
CLEARING OUT
TO BE NICE.

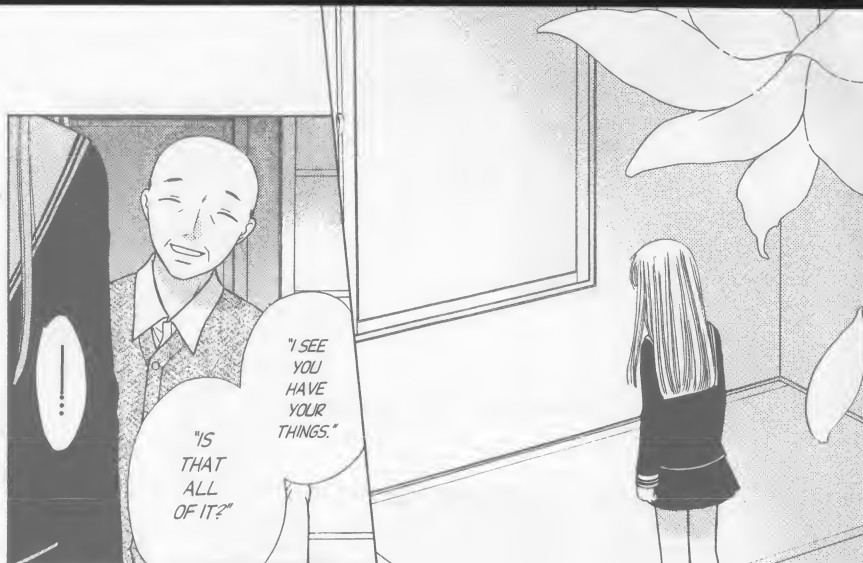
My
fault.
I guess.



KYO-KUN
WILL BE
GONE.

Chapter 108

Fruits Basket™



"IS THAT ALL OF IT?"

"I SEE YOU HAVE YOUR THINGS."



I CAN FEEL IT.

"YES."

"TOHRU-SAN."



...SITTING THERE, SMILING, LIKE SHE ALWAYS DID.

EVEN THOUGH MOM SHOULD HAVE BEEN...

HER PRESENCE IS DISAPPEARING.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS HERE UNTIL JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.



WHY?

I PROMISED.

I PROMISED, BUT...



I PROMISED SO HONESTLY THAT DAY...



...WHEN I HAD TO LEAVE THE APARTMENT I LIVED IN WITH MOM.

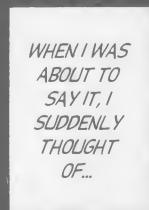


THAT DAY...



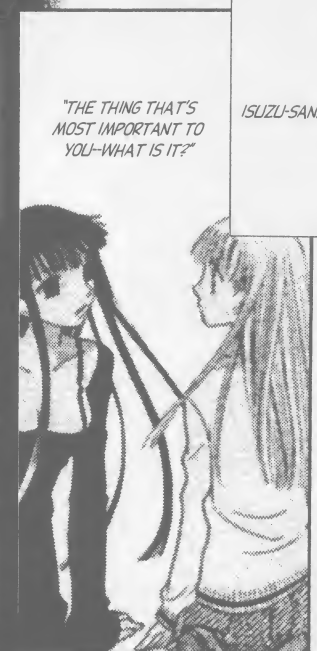
I COULDN'T ANSWER HER RIGHT AWAY.

I COULDN'T SAY "MY MOM."



WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO SAY IT, I SUDDENLY THOUGHT OF...

...WILL BE CONFINED."

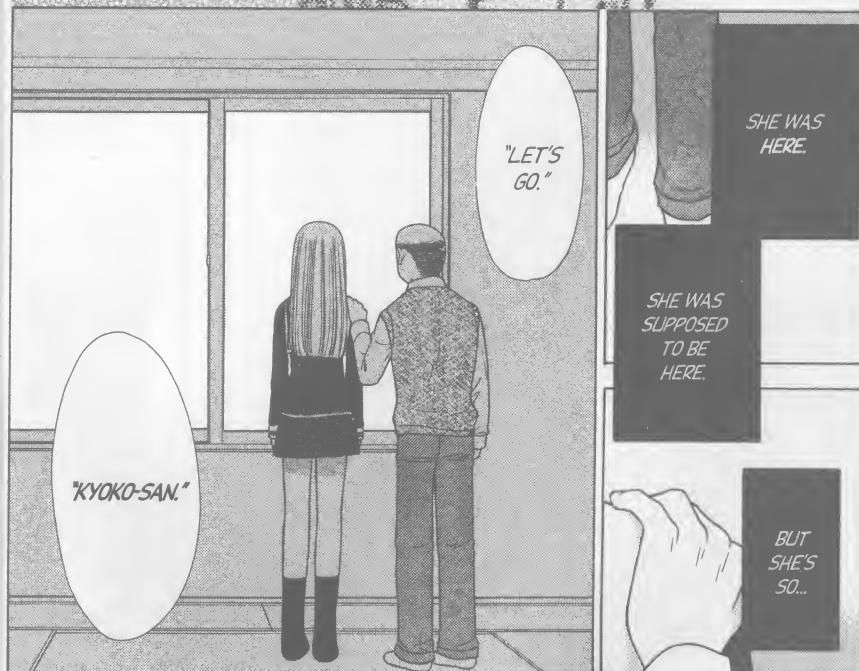
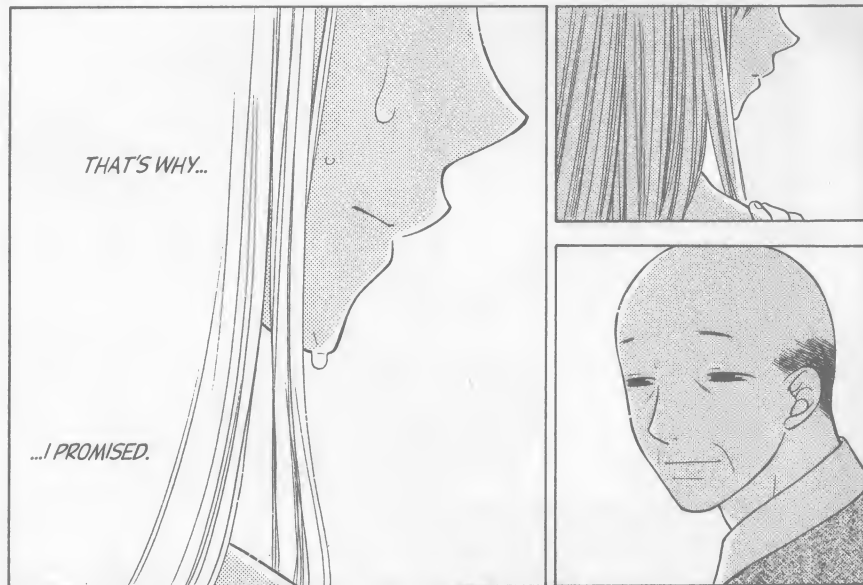


"THE THING THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU—WHAT IS IT?"

ISUZU-SAN.



I COULDN'T.



Fruits Basket

Nice to meet you and hello. This is Takaya, presenting Volume 19. Too fast, too fast--there's no time for anything (like always). Anyway, on this cover is Flying Pot-kun, aka Kakeru. The characters have nothing to do with the Zodiac anymore, so I worry about what I should draw on the back cover. Actually, as I write (type) this, I still haven't decided. What should I draw...?

By the way, I've been asked what the yeast bun on the back of Volume 18 is. It's a bun Shishou-san wouldn't accept from his grandfather, the previous cat, when Shishou-san was a boy. Maybe it was hard to tell. Sorry.

Now then, please enjoy Furuba 19.





OF COURSE
I DIDN'T.

DID YOU
KNOW ALL
ALONG?

...WOULD
ACTUALLY
BREAK?

D-DID YOU
KNOW? THAT
SOMEDAY
THE CURSE...

SHIGURE-
SAN...



I THINK WE
MAY ONLY
ALL BE
HERE...

...BECAUSE
THIS IS
THE LAST
BANQUET.



IT'S
PLEASED
THE HECK
OUT OF
OUR MAIDS.
THEY
THINK IT'S
AMAZING.

BUT I'VE
GOT MY
OWN
THEORY.



BUT
SOMEHOW...

...I HAD A
FEELING
THIS
WOULD BE
THE END
OF IT.



FROM WHAT
I HEAR, THIS
IS THE FIRST
TIME THE
ENTIRE ZODIAC
HAS BEEN
TOGETHER LIKE
WE ARE NOW.

APPARENTLY,
THERE WAS
ALWAYS ONE
WHO WAS
MISSING, OR
HADN'T BEEN
BORN YET, OR
WHATEVER.



IF YOU'RE
HEADING
HOME, IT'S
THIS WAY.

COME
ON.



HM.

ARE YOU
LOST?



I HAD
NO
IDEA.



SHI...



OH...

IT REALLY IS
SOMETHING,
TOHRU-KUN.

BOTH YOU
AND RIN
WERE
TRYING TO
BREAK THE
CURSE.



UM--

KURENO-KUN'S SAYING IT, TOO.

IT'S NOT JUST ME.



SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I KNEW YOU HEARD THAT, TOO.

I JUST DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE IT'S A SECRET.



UM...

THEN ABOUT AKITO-SAN...

...BEING A WOMAN...?

YUP.



THEY'RE STARTING TO MOVE.

...AND CHANCES THAT HAVE ACCUMULATED.

THERE ARE SMALL CHANGES...

HE THINKS THE END IS PROBABLY NEAR.

"SHIGURE-NIISAN."



...KURENO-KUN ISN'T OUR FRIEND ANYMORE.

...I KNOW, I KNOW. TO PUT IT VERY CHILDISHLY...



It's funny.

I FEEL LIKE EVEN THE ANIMALS WE TRANSFORM INTO ARE HALF-BAKED VERSIONS OF WHAT WE WERE LONG AGO.

LIKE THE SEAHORSE.

Sorry, Haa-san.



HE'S TOLD YOU SOME THINGS. HASN'T HE, TOHRU-KUN?

IT'S OKAY.

I ALREADY KNOW.



I MEAN, I THINK THE "BLOOD" ITSELF HAS BEEN DILUTED OVER TIME.

IT'S BEEN YEARS, RIGHT?

AND KURENO-KUN IS LIVING PROOF.

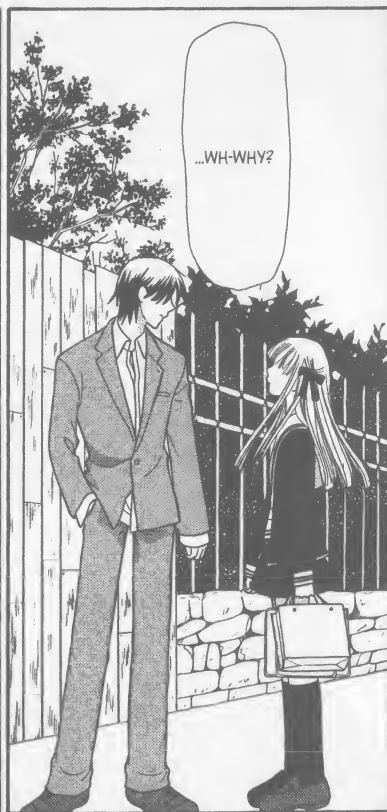
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM WASN'T VOLUNTARY OR EVEN FORCED.

THE CURSE JUST SUDDENLY BROKE ONE DAY.

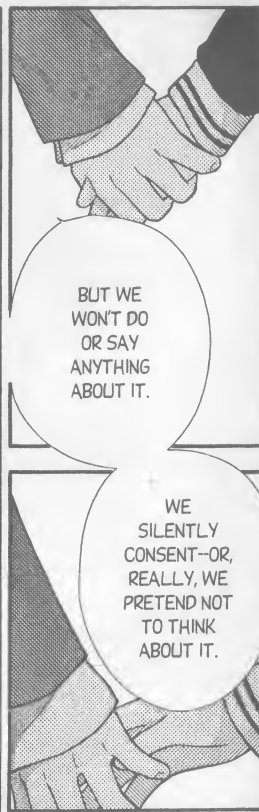


...

WHY?



...WH-WHY?



BUT WE
WON'T DO
OR SAY
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.

WE
SILENTLY
CONSENT--OR,
REALLY, WE
PRETEND NOT
TO THINK
ABOUT IT.



BECAUSE
THE CAT
HAS A
DUTY
TO GO.



"DID YOU GET
HER INVOLVED..."

"...BECAUSE YOU
WANTED TO CREATE
ONE, TOO?"



KYO
DOESN'T
HAVE MUCH
LONGER,
DOES HE?

THE ENTIRE
ZODIAC
KNOWS.



THAT'S
RIGHT.

WE
ALREADY
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT.



IF YOU
DON'T MAKE
KYO-KUN
HIS OWN
CHANCE...

...HE'S
GOING TO
BE LOCKED
AWAY.



"GOOD,"
WE
THINK.

"AT
LEAST
I'M
BETTER
OFF
THAN
HIM."

IT'S A MATTER
OF COURSE
THAT HE
HAS TO LIVE
LOCKED UP,
DISCRIMINATED
AGAINST
AND LOOKED
DOWN ON.

SEEING
HIM BEING
TREATED
THAT WAY
MAKES THE
ZODIAC
FEEL
BETTER.

TO THOSE
OF US
IN THE
ZODIAC, THE
EXISTENCE
OF THE
CAT IS OUR
SALVATION.

WE
NEED
HIM,
TOHRU-
KUN.

HE'S A
MONSTER
EVEN
UGLIER
THAN WE
ARE.

HE'S
INFERIOR TO
EVERYTHING.

DO YOU
KNOW HOW MANY
HANDICAPS
WE HAVE, HOW
MUCH PAIN WE
GO THROUGH TO
LIVE WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK
OF THIS WORLD?

DO
YOU?

WE'RE
MONSTERS,
TOHRU-KUN.

DISGUSTING
CREATURES.

YOU
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
THINK WE'RE
HAPPY ABOUT
WHAT WE
ARE...

DO YOU
THINK
WE
ENJOY
IT?

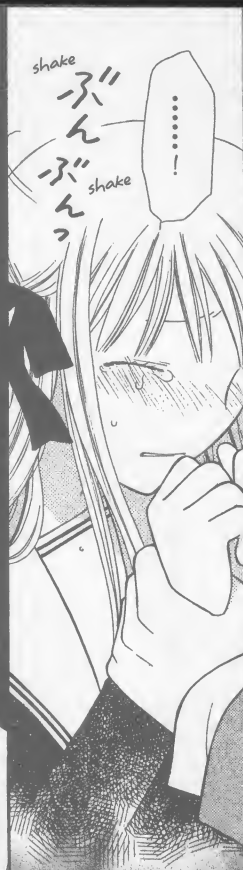
...WHAT
HATORI
WAS
TALKING
ABOUT
THAT DAY.

I WONDER
IF I REALLY
UNDERSTOOD...

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

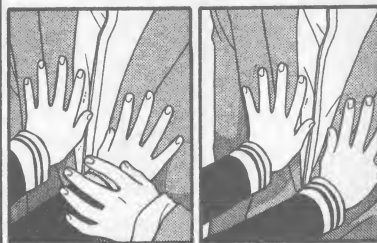
NOT
ANY
OF IT.

NOT
AT
ALL.



"IT'S
BIZARRE,
SINISTER..."

...CURSED."



DID I
MAKE
YOU
ANGRY?



KYO
KNOWS
IT, I
MEAN.

SHIGURE-
SAN!

THE CAT
WAS
PREPARED
...

...TO BE
THE
CREATURE
THAT
WAS LEFT
OUT.

AND HE
KNOWS
THAT,
BY THE
WAY.

ASK IF THEY
KNEW HE'D BE
CONFINED--
IF THEY
ALWAYS
LOOKED
DOWN ON HIM
INSIDE THEIR
HEARTS.

GO
AHEAD
AND
ASK THE
OTHERS.

THEY
WON'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO SAY.



WH-WHY?

BUT I...

I
PROMISED.

...PICTURE
FIRST
IN MY
HEART...

THE ONE I
ALWAYS...

THE
ONE I
CARE
FOR.

I
PROMISED
SO, SO
HARD.

AND YOU
SAID THAT
"EVENTUALLY"
ISN'T GOOD
ENOUGH,
DIDN'T YOU?

...

TOHRU-KUN.

DO YOU
WANT
TO
SAVE
KYO?

I DON'T
REALLY
BELIEVE
WHAT
KURENO-
KUN SAID...

BUT I AM
CONFIDENT
ABOUT
SOME
THINGS
MYSELF.

DO
YOU...

...LOVE--?

THAT'S
GOING
TO END
SOMEDAY,
TOO.

...IT'S
ALL SO
DEEP.

I
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
TOUCH IT.

ANYWAY.

THE CONFLICT,
THE SUFFERING
THE PAIN, THE
SADNESS...



I GUESS I
SHOULD
APOLOGIZE.



LOOK,
I'M NOT
TRYING
TO BE
MEAN.



HEY.



YOU'D
BETTER
HOPE YOU
DIDN'T
JUST SAY
SOMETHING
TO HER.



WHO
WAS
THE
ONE...

...WHO
SAID
THAT?

"YOU
MAKE
ME
SICK."



SHE'LL
DISAPPEAR!

SHE'LL
GO...

...FAR
AWAY.

"HMPH."

I
CAN'T.



Ugh
WHAT
HOST
CLUB
DID HE
WANDER
OUT OF?

BUT
SERIOUSLY,
IT'S WEIRD
TO HEAR
THAT YOU
GET IN
FIGHTS.

OH.



I'VE TOLD
YOU ALL
I CAN
FOR NOW,
TOHRU-KUN.

DON'T
PUSH
YOURSELF
TOO
HARD...

BUT
GIVE IT
WHAT
YOU
CAN.



YOU'LL
MAKE
UP IN NO
TIME.



UM...

I-I'M
SORRY.

A SPAT.
EVERY
ONCE IN
A WHILE
IS NO BIG
DEAL.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.



EVEN IF I
DID, I DON'T
THINK THAT
WARRANTS
YOUR
GLARING.

I'M
ALWAYS
GLARING,
SO SHUT
IT.

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
OUT HERE
IN THE
STREET?

TOHRU-
KUN SAYS
SHE HAD
A FIGHT
WITH RIN.

I WAS
LENDING
HER AN
EAR.



THAT PAPER
BAG IS A
PRESENT
FOR RIN
FROM
TOHRU-KUN.
GIVE IT TO
ME, WILL
YOU?

IT'S A
DELICATE
PROBLEM,
SO DON'T
BUG HER
ABOUT IT.

ER...

A
FIGHT?

TOHRU
GOT IN A
FIGHT?!





JUST...

I'M
SORRY.

...FOR A
LITTLE
LONGER.



.....



CRAP.



I HEARD
YOU SAY
"CRAP."

ARE YOU HERE
TO EXAMINE
RIN? YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO WAIT FOR
ANYBODY--
JUST GO ON IN!

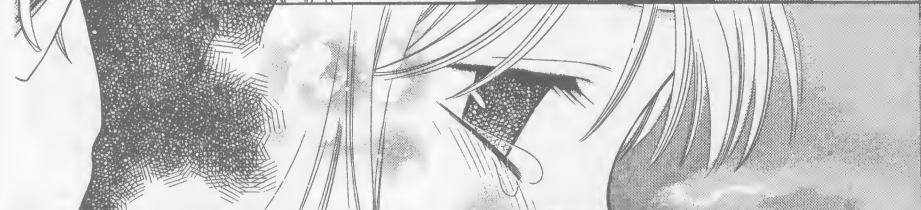
☆

Oh, Ha-
san, what
an amazing
coincidence!

You're
so
serious.
my



...CRY
WHEN
YOU
HAVE
TO.



MAYBE
I CAN
JUST SAY
IT'S A
PRESENT.

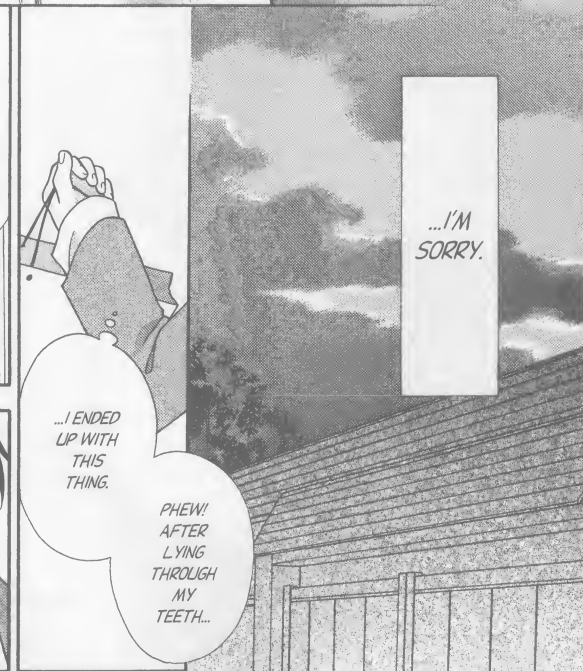
It'll actually
go through
the front door
this time.

HELLO?

カ
ラッ



EXCUSE--



...I ENDED
UP WITH
THIS
THING.

PHEW!
AFTER
LYING
THROUGH
MY
TEETH...

...I'M
SORRY.



Chapter 109

BUT
MAYBE
I'LL
KNOW BY
THEN.

MAYBE
THEN
I'LL
KNOW...

...WHAT I
HAVE TO
LET GO OF.

I WANT
TO BE
"HERE."

I'LL HAVE
TO DO
SOMETHING...

...WHEN
THE
TIME
COMES.



I GUESS
YOU
COULD
CALL THIS
RUNNING
AWAY.

THEY
MUST'VE
GONE
HOME BY
NOW.

I WONDER
IF THEY
HAD A
PICNIC AT
THE GRAVE
LIKE LAST
YEAR.



HOW
MANY
MORE
TIMES...

...CAN
I BE
FORGIVEN
BY THAT
SMILE?



NOT
ANYMORE.

I CAN'T BE
BRAVE ENOUGH
TO STAND
IN FRONT OF
THAT GRAVE,
SURROUNDED BY
THOSE PEOPLE.

BUT I
CAN'T
DO IT.

"WHY
ARE
YOU..."



IT WAS THE
ANNIVERSARY
OF KYOKO
HONDA'S
DEATH.



AND
SHE
SMILED
AT ME.

WHEN I
TOLD HER
I COULDN'T
VISIT THE
GRAVE WITH
HER THIS
YEAR...

...SHE JUST
ANSWERED,
"YES,"
LIKE SHE
ALWAYS
DOES.





...I'm gradually getting to the point where I don't know whom I've written about and whom I haven't. I don't reread these columns, so I feel like someday I'm going to do a repeat.



• At first, I was worried that kids these days wouldn't really understand a yankee character.

Uo-chan.

With her father, Uo is in a family of two.

• She's good at studying.

• She's always kicking and hitting Kyo, so when the series first started, I heard a lot of angry complaints from Kyo fans. But I get the feeling that those complaints have stopped by now.

• Maybe the fans have acknowledged that that's what their relationship is like? (laugh)

To be continued...

BUT
YOU'VE
GROWN,
MY BOY.

CHILDREN
REALLY
DO GROW
IN NO TIME
AT ALL.

...
JII-SAN.

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
HERE?

OH, I'M
SORRY.
I MEAN
TOHRU-
SAN.

YOU'VE
BEEN
VERY
KIND TO
TOHRU-
SAN.

.....

I JUST
CALLED
HOME, AND
NOW I'M
WAITING
FOR
SOMEONE
TO PICK
ME UP.

Cell phones
are so
convenient.

I can't
move
without it
cracking.

WELL,
MY POOR
BACK IS
ACTING UP
A LITTLE.

UH...
ARE YOU
OKAY?

Huh?

YOU'RE
THAT BOY I
SAW ONCE,
AREN'T
YOU?

I
REMEMBER.

WHO
COULD
FORGET
THAT
ORANGE
HAIR?

OH.

YOU'RE
TOHRU'S...?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

THANK
YOU FOR
BEING
KIND TO
KYOKO-
SAN.

I DO
UNDERSTAND.

OH,
HELLO!

I
KNOW
YOU.



...I WANTED TO PROVE SOMETHING ABOUT KYOKO-SAN.

IT DIDN'T MATTER HOW, BUT...

I WANTED TO TIE THEM TOGETHER.

LISTEN, SON.

...



THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON.



I'm Tohru, Grandpa.

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY...

...TOHRU-SAN REALIZED THAT.



SO IT'S NOT JUST FOR HER.

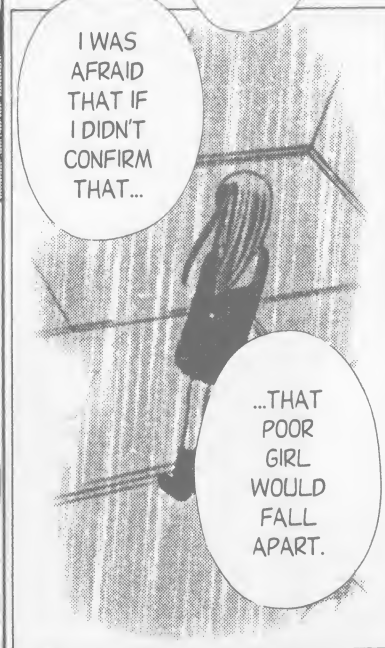


...ANYWAY.



SHE DID EXIST.

I WANT THAT TO BE CLEAR.



I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I DIDN'T CONFIRM THAT...

...THAT POOR GIRL WOULD FALL APART.



JII-SAN... YOU CALL HER "KYOKO"?

HM?

OH. I DO, DON'T I?

IS KYOKO... ER, TOHRU-SAN...?

IS SHE DOING WELL?

DID YOU COME TO VISIT KYOKO-SAN'S GRAVE, AS WELL?

HOW KIND OF YOU.

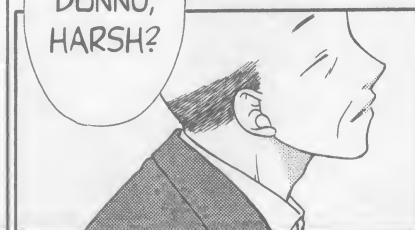


I SUPPOSE IT IS.



DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S KINDA...

...I DUNNO, HARSH?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT LOOKS LIKE...

...SHE DID IT AS AN IMITATION OF HER FATHER, KATSUYA.

UH...
HUH?

...WHY TOHRU-SAN TALKS THE WAY SHE DOES?

DO YOU KNOW...

YOU, BOY.

びく
twitch

THINGS LIKE, "SHE DOESN'T LOOK A THING LIKE KATSUYA."

"ARE YOU SURE SHE'S NOT SOME OTHER MAN'S CHILD?"

AT KATSUYA'S FUNERAL...

...SOME WORTHLESS RELATIVES SAID SOME WORTHLESS THINGS.

"TOTO-SAN!"

I DID IT FOR MYSELF.

I WAS LONELY, YOU SEE.

EVERYONE IN MY LIFE...

...LEAVES ME BEHIND.

I WANTED TO AT LEAST...

...TIE THEM TOGETHER SOMEHOW.



...OR IF IT'S
MALICIOUS.

...CHILDREN
KNOW IF A
COMMENT
IS KIND...

AT THE
VERY
LEAST...



AND, "A
GIRL LIKE
THIS IS NO
CONSOLATION."

THINGS
LIKE
THAT.

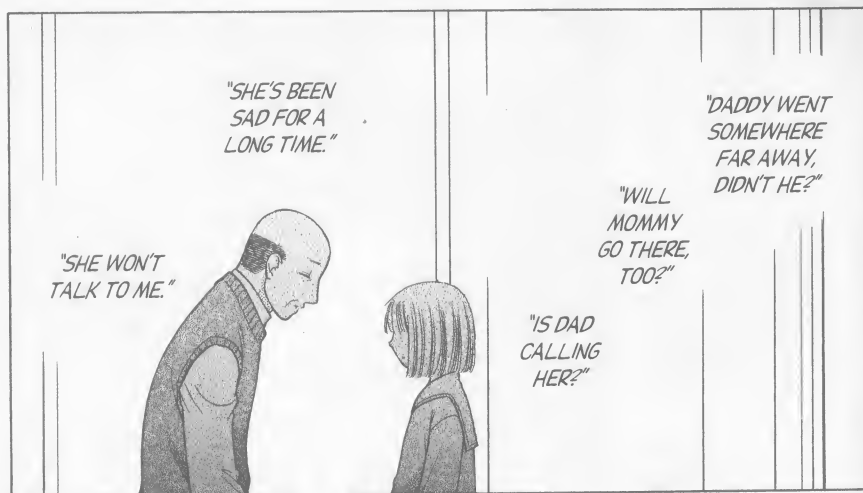
...WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THEY
WERE SAYING.

I SUPPOSE
THEY
THOUGHT
A CHILD...

WHAT A
THING TO
ASSUME.

OF COURSE
CHILDREN
UNDERSTAND
THE THINGS
ADULTS SAY.

THEY
WERE
BEING
FOOLISH.



"SHE'S BEEN
SAD FOR A
LONG TIME."

"SHE WON'T
TALK TO ME."

"DADDY WENT
SOMEWHERE
FAR AWAY,
DIDN'T HE?"

"WILL
MOMMY
GO THERE,
TOO?"

"IS DAD
CALLING
HER?"



"WILL
MOM GET
BETTER IF
I'M JUST
LIKE HIM?"

"WHAT
CAN I DO
TO BE LIKE
HIM?"

"IS SHE
SAD
BECAUSE
I DON'T
LOOK LIKE
DAD?"



"IT'S
BEEN
SINCE
THEN."

"IT'S
BEEN
SINCE
THEN."

"WILL
SHE
STAY
HERE?"

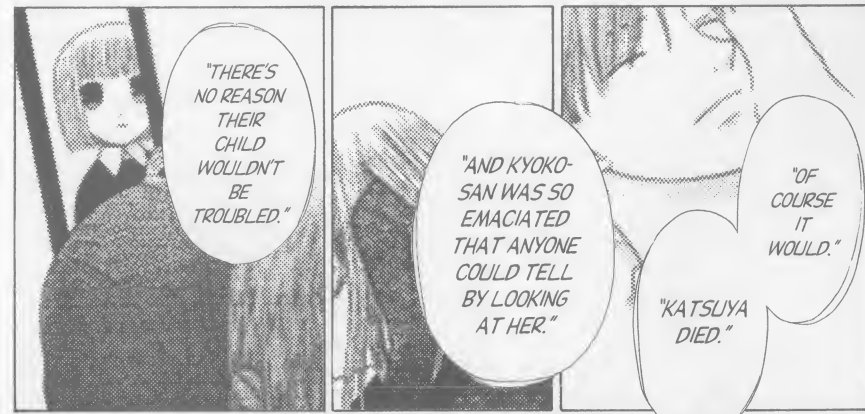
"...THERE WAS
A TIME WHEN
KYOKO-SAN
LEFT THE
HOUSE FOR A
LONG TIME."

"AFTER
THAT..."



"WELL..."

"IT
BOTHERED
TOHRU-
SAN."



"THERE'S
NO REASON
THEIR
CHILD
WOULDN'T
BE
TROUBLED."

"AND KYOKO-
SAN WAS SO
EMACIATED
THAT ANYONE
COULD TELL
BY LOOKING
AT HER."

"OF
COURSE
IT
WOULD."

"KATSUYA
DIED."




...SURROUNDED
BY NOTHING
BUT GOOD
THINGS.


IT'S NOT
LIKE SHE
MADE
IT THIS
FAR...

"I ONLY
NEED
THAT
TO
LIVE."

THERE
WAS
THIS
ONE
TIME.



SHE SAID SHE
WAS WORRIED
BECAUSE SHE'D
HAVE TO LEAVE
HER PLACE FOR
AN OVERNIGHT
WORK SHIFT.



TOHRU
BEING ALL
ALONE,
EVEN AS
A KID...

IT
REMINDED
ME A LOT
OF HOW
SHE IS
NOW.



SO I
WENT
TO
CHECK
ON HER.



IT
WAS
WEIRD.

"TOHRU
WAS STILL
THERE
FOR ME."

"SHE'S HERE TO
SUPPORT ME.
THAT'S WHY I
CAN KEEP LIVING
MY LIFE."

"MAYBE
THE WORLD
DOESN'T
NEED ME."

"BUT THERE'S
STILL ONE
PERSON..."

"...WHO'S KIND
ENOUGH TO
NEED ME."

I FINALLY
KNOW
HOW THE
SENTENCE
ENDED.

"I THINK I DID
SOMETHING."

"Y'KNOW?"

"TO
MAKE
HER
SAD."

"BUT
STILL..."



"LIKE
KATSUYA."

"SHE'S..."



I
REMEMBER.

BUT SHE
DIDN'T
FINISH
WHAT
SHE WAS
SAYING
THAT DAY.

WHAT DID YOUR FATHER LOOK LIKE?

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

I'M GLAD.

I REALLY WAS HOPING THAT TODAY WOULD BE SUNNY.

...HEY.

Y...

OUR FACES DON'T REALLY...

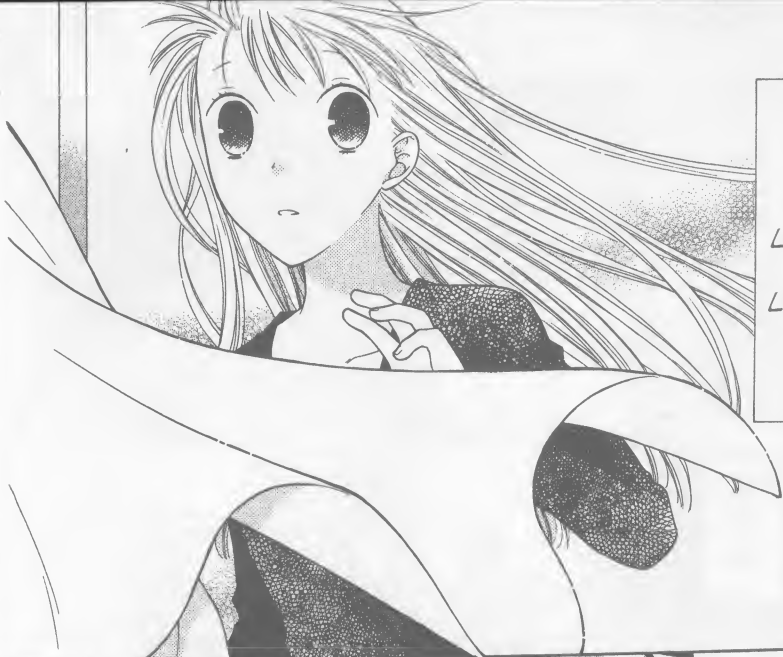
BUT OUR...

...THAT YOU DON'T REMEMBER HIM VERY WELL.

...

BUT DO YOU LOOK LIKE HIM?

I KNOW YOU SAID BEFORE...



SHE LOOKED SO LONELY.

OH...UH, I JUST GOT HOME NOW.

I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE HOME.

YOU'RE HOME PRETTY EARLY YOURSELF.

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I WORRIED OVER NOTHING.

YES. I HEARD THAT IT WOULD RAIN TONIGHT...

EEK!

HUH?

Er...

YOU STARTLED ME! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE!



WE'RE
REALLY
NOT...

...ALIKE
AT
ALL.



...BECAUSE
WE'RE NOT
ALIKE.

THAT'S
WHY I
TALK
THE WAY
I DO.

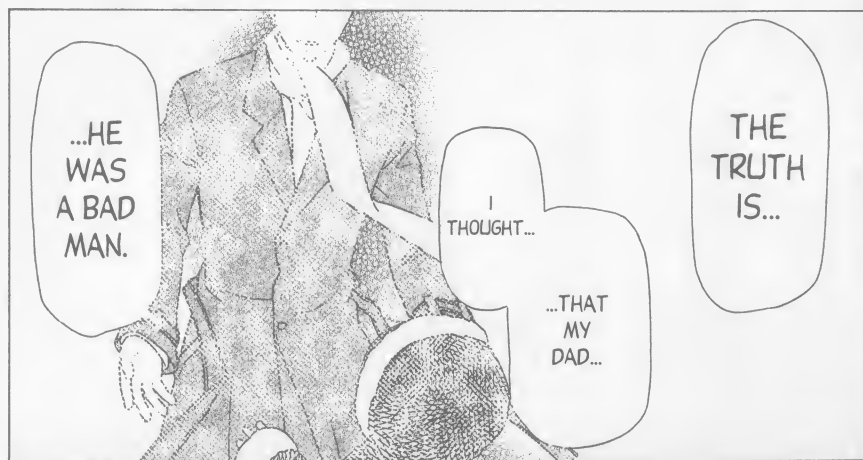
I
TALK
LIKE
HIM...



I
JUST...

I
JUST...
...MM.

I...



...HE
WAS
A BAD
MAN.

I
THOUGHT...

...THAT
MY DAD...

THE
TRUTH
IS...



IT'S
NOT
TRUE.

NOT
ACTUALLY.



I'VE HEARD
THAT
THE WAY
WE TALK
IS VERY
SIMILAR!

VERY
SIMILAR,
SUPPOSEDLY.

BUT
THE
WAY
WE, ER,
TALK!

OH!

"A GIRL LIKE
THIS IS NO
CONSOLATION."



...YOU
WERE
PROBABLY
HAPPY
TO HEAR
THAT.

YEAH?

HUNH.



I
GUESS...



EVEN
MOM...

...SAID
WE
TALK
THE
SAME.



IT WAS
SIMPLE
FOR ME
TO JUST...
TREAT MY
FATHER
LIKE A
BAD MAN.

I WOULD
HAVE
DONE
ANYTHING
FOR THAT.

I
WANTED
TO BE
ABLE
TO STAY
CALM.

I DIDN'T
WANT
TO BE
LEFT
BEHIND.

I
DIDN'T...

...I WOULD
HAVE
BROKEN
ANY
PROMISE.

.....
IF IT
WAS FOR
MYSELF...

WHAT?

BUT
THAT'S
JUST...
STUPID.

I'M
SUCH A
TERRIBLE
PERSON.

I
THOUGHT
HE
MIGHT...

...TAKE
MOM
AWAY...

...
FROM
ME.

SO I
WANTED
TO...
GET HER
ATTENTION.

I
WANTED
HER TO
STAY
WITH
ME.

I WANTED
TO TIE US
TOGETHER.

IT'S VAGUE,
BUT I DO
REMEMBER.

HE WAS
KIND, AND
I CAN
RECALL
THE
THINGS HE
GAVE ME.

IT'S ALL
STILL
IN MY
MEMORY.

EVEN
THOUGH...

BUT I
STILL
THOUGHT...

...I
REALLY
DO...
...
REMEMBER
HIM.

IT WAS
PROBABLY
A LITTLE
WEIRD.

AND SILLY.

AND
THEN...

...SHE MADE
HER OWN
ANSWER.

SHE MUST'VE
LOOKED SO
STUPID.

BUT I BET SHE
KEPT IT UP
ANYWAY.

IT MAKES
HER LOOK
SO STUPID.

AS SHE TEARS
HERSELF
APART WITH
BLAME.

THE
WAY SHE
LOOKED...

...AS SHE
HID HER
LONELINESS.

...AND
LEAVE
HER
BEHIND.

SHE
DIDN'T
WANT
HER MOM
TO GO...

LET
ME
GUESS.

SHE
CHASED
AFTER THE
TRACES OF
HER FATHER
LEFT IN HER
MEMORY.

THEN SHE
THOUGHT OF
SOMETHING.

SHE
FILLED
UP HER
HEAD
WITH
IDEAS.

"WELCOME
HOME."

"DID
YOU
HAVE
FUN?"

"TOHRLI."

YOU
SUPPORTED
HER.

I KNOW
YOU DID.

"TOHRU
WAS THERE
FOR ME."

YOU HAVE
TO BELIEVE
THAT.

REALLY.

...REALLY?

DID I...

IT'S OKAY,
REALLY.

TALK THAT
WAY AS
MUCH AS
YOU WANT.

IT'S NOT
GONNA...
DISILLUSION
ME OR
ANYTHING.

...OH.

I'M SORRY...
I WAS
SUDDENLY
TALKING LIKE
I'M DEPRESSED.

IT'S
OKAY.

...AND SO
DESERVING
OF LOVE.

I'M SURE
SHE KNEW.

YOUR MOM,
I MEAN.

I'M SURE SHE
KNEW ALL
ABOUT IT.

BUT YOU
WERE
STILL...

"...IS EVERYONE'S
HAPPINESS."

"WELL,
NOW."

"I HOPE
YOU TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF HER."

"BECAUSE
THAT GIRL'S
HAPPINESS..."

HUHH.

...HE JUST
SAID,
"REALLY?"

THIS
MAN
IS MY
DAD.

HERE.

AND HE
SMILED
AT ME.

WHEN I
MUTTERED
TO MYSELF
THAT HE WAS
WASTING
HIS TIME
ASKING ME...

"HIM?"

"WHY
ARE YOU
TELLING
ME..."

"...ABOUT
YOUR
RELATIVES?"

!!

"YOU'D
BEST BE
OFF, TOO."

"AT ANY
RATE,
MY RIDE
SHOULD BE
HERE SOON."

"I'M SURE
SHE'S WAITING
FOR YOU TO
RETURN."

"OH."

"WELL,
IT JUST
SEEMED..."

"...LIKE TOHRU-
SAN IS VERY
PRECIOUS
TO YOU."

"HANG ON."

Filler Sketch







Filler Sketch *



Continued→

There's a completely unimportant story element in that the wallets that Tohru, Uo-chan, and Hana-chan use all match in different colors. (It really is completely unimportant...)

Incidentally, Hana-chan's wallet hasn't made an appearance. (I don't think.)

As much as Uo-chan is a veteran character, I've written all about her in the main story, so I don't have much to add about her, either.



If I were to actually meet someone like Aaya, I think they would suck away all my power...

Aaya

With his father, mother and Yuki, Ayame is in a family of four.

In his position as an almost self-proclaimed older brother, with Yuki's innate tolerance (laugh), he has become a lot more brotherly...maybe.

To be continued...

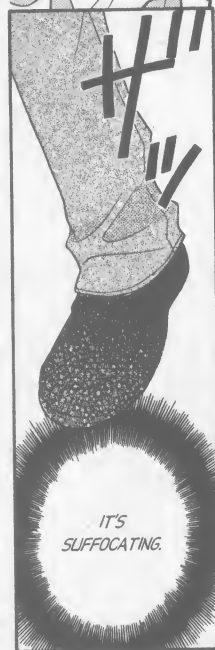


WHAT?!

Riiight.

I HAD, UM, SOMETHING TO DO TODAY.

SOMETHING I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED JUST NOW AND THAT ABSOLUTELY REQUIRES THAT I LEAVE RIGHT NOW. WHAT A SHAME!



IT'S SUFFOCATING.



Aa ha ha ha ha

Y-Y-YOU'RE GOING OUT?!

YUP. VERY SORRY.

I'LL BE BACK BEFORE DINNER.



WHAT'S WITH HIM?

bata bata bata bata bata bata gara



すいぽん



.....



DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

I'M SO SORRY!



THANK YOU VERY MUCH. ALL RIGHT.

JUST HAND IT OVER!

WHAT? ER, UH...

I'LL DO IT FOR YOU.

B-BUT HAND THAT OVER.





...MAKES
ME VERY
HAPPY.

JUST BEING
ABLE TO GO
OUT WITH
YOU...



OH!
YES!

OKAY,
WHATEVER.

LET'S GO.



WITH...

...YOU.



IF YOU THINK
OF SOMEWHERE
ELSE YOU
WANNA GO
ON THE WAY,
JUST TELL
ME, OKAY?



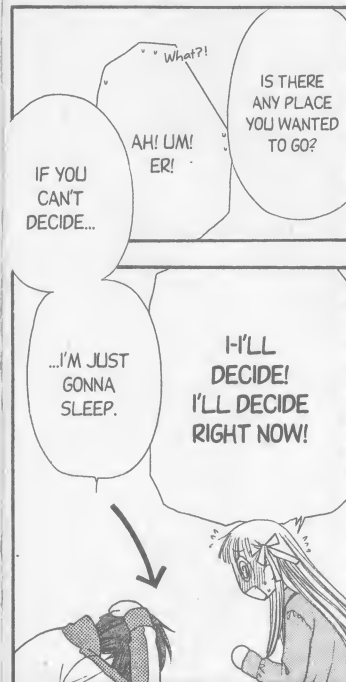
...



WH-WH-WHAT'S
THE MATTER?!

ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?!

KYO-KUNI!



IF YOU
CAN'T
DECIDE...

What?!

AH! UM!
ER!

IS THERE
ANY PLACE
YOU WANTED
TO GO?

...I'M JUST
GONNA
SLEEP.

I-I'LL
DECIDE!
I'LL DECIDE
RIGHT NOW!



...WANNA GO
SOMEWHERE?

AH! YES...

EXCUSE ME?!



...THAT'S
JUST AN
ERRAND.



UM...

EGGS!
THAT'S
RIGHT-
EGGS!

WE'RE OUT
OF EGGS, SO
I NEED TO GO
BUY SOME!

Or else...!

NOW! REMOVE
YOUR SHOES AND
COME INTO MY
CASTLE (HOUSE)
POSTHASTE!

I CAN'T
SAY I
DID.

I WONDER IF YOU
ALSO FELT THE RAY
OF A SHOOTING STAR
THAT STREAKED
THROUGH MY
HEART AT THE
TIME I RECEIVED
YOUR PHONE
CALL OF LOVE!

MY, MY,
MY, MY!

HOW
GLORIOUS
FOR YOU
TO HAVE
COME!

Bonjour!

I KNOW I'VE
TALKED TO YOU
ABOUT GREETING
ME IN THOSE
OUTRAGEOUS
OUTFITS.

AND YOU
MAY FLY
IMMEDIATELY
TO MY BOSOM!

BE NOT
TIMID!
COME!
COME!

COME!

IT'S...
NOTHING.

WHAT ABOUT
YOU?! IS IT
REALLY ALL
RIGHT FOR
YOU TO BE SO
DAMN CUTE?!

AND AM I AN OLD
PERVERT FOR
THINKING THAT?!
AM I A PERVERTED
OLD MAN?!

OH DEAR.
WHAT'S THIS
I FEEL?

AH, HE WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO PUT
HIS HANDS ON
HER, ANYWAY. IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE FOR
HIM RIGHT NOW.
IMMPOSSIBLE.

SHOULD I
CURSE HIM
FOR NOW...?

I SENSE THAT KYO
SOHMA HAS BEEN
REDUCED TO A
PERVERTED OLD
MAN AND IS AFTER
TOHRU-KUN.

What a terrible
feeling.



GAH!
wait a
minute!

You're
going
outside?!
And
to the
store?!

*Wearing
that?!*

THESE
CONVERSATIONS
AREN'T HELPING
ANYONE!

*This is so
frustrating!*



DO YOU?! IN THAT
CASE, LET'S
HEAR WHAT YOU
HAVE TO SPEAK
ABOUT WITHOUT
DELAY, YUKI!

HAVE YOU
ACCOMPLISHED
YOUR GOAL
AT LAST?!

HUH?
WHAT
GOAL?



THAT'S
NOT MY
GOAL.

WHY,
RUNNING
INTO A
GIRL IN
THE BATH!



NOT TO WORRY.
MINE IS A BIT OF
A CELEBRITY IN
THE AREA AS A
REAL-LIFE MAID.

HER FORM SPREADS
THE FANTASY
KNOWN AS A
"FANBOY CRUSH"
THROUGHOUT OUR
STALE, MODERN
SOCIETY, AS IT-

I GET IT,
THANK
YOU.

*I have the feeling
this could get long.*



OF COURSE
SHOPS CLOSE
DURING GOLDEN
WEEK-SUCH IS
THE PRACTICE
IN THIS WORLD!

*A foolish
question,
Yuki!*

WASN'T
THE SHOP
CLOSED
TODAY?

*You're
dressed
up, too,
Mine-
san?*



THOUGH IT MAY
BE GOLDEN
WEEK, THERE
IS NO REST IN
ADORNING ONE'S
APPEARANCE--
SUCH IS THE
PRACTICE IN
THIS WORLD!

*A foolish
question,
Yuki!*

THEN WHY
ARE YOU
WEARING--?



NO HARM WILL
BE DONE. TELL
ME, MINE!

I MESSED
UP,
MANAGER!

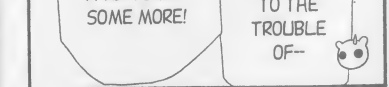


I USED THE END
OF THE TEA
LEAVES THE
LAST TIME I
MADE TEA!

I SHALL RUN
LIKE THE
WIND TO BUY
SOME MORE!

REALLY,
DON'T GO
TO THE
TROUBLE
OF--

Huh?



WAIT HERE
AND STUFF!
I'LL MAKE
SOME TEA...

ACK!



OH-HELLO.
SORRY FOR
DROPPING IN
SO SUDDEN...

WELCOME,
OTOUTO-
KUN!

MAKE
YOURSELF
AT HOME!



IT WOULD
CERTAINLY
BE NICE...

...IF WE COULD
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER
BETTER
SOMEDAY.



WAIT A MIN--

IT WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY RUDE TO GO EMPTY-HANDED! SOMETHING...I NEED SOMETHING TO BRING AS A GIFT!

WHAT ABOUT SOMETHING SUCH AS THIS?!

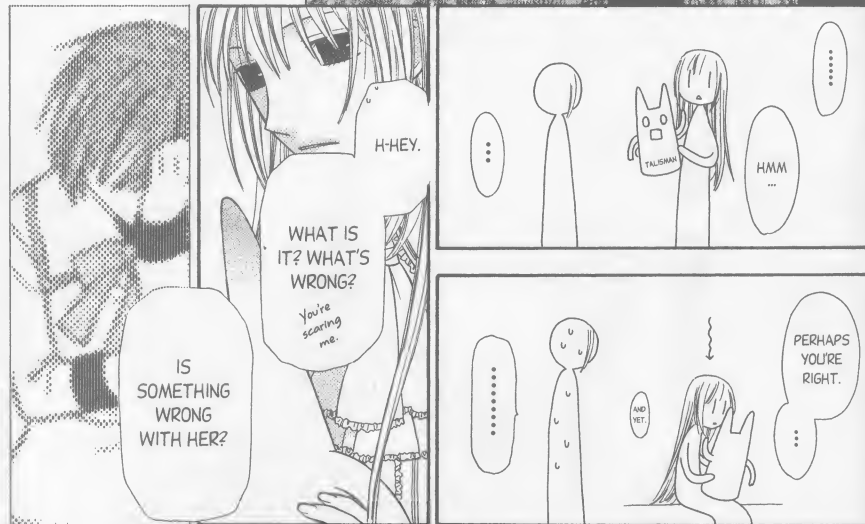
It's a rare item!

TALISMAN

I DON'T THINK SHE'S JUST GOING TO BE WHERE I LEFT HER.

HUH?

I MUST APOLOGIZE!



H-HEY.

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

You're scaring me.

IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER?

...

HMM...

...

NO! YET.

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.



Just now realized.

AND YET I SHAMELESSLY CAME OVER JUST BECAUSE HE TOLD ME TO.

WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT ME?

THEN LET'S START OVER, SHALL WE? LET US HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT!

Is that so? That's just what I thought!

I DID TRY TO TELL YOU ON THE PHONE, NII-SAN. BUT YOU--

THEN WHAT WOULD YUKI POSSIBLY COME TO ME FOR?!

Hmm!

What?!

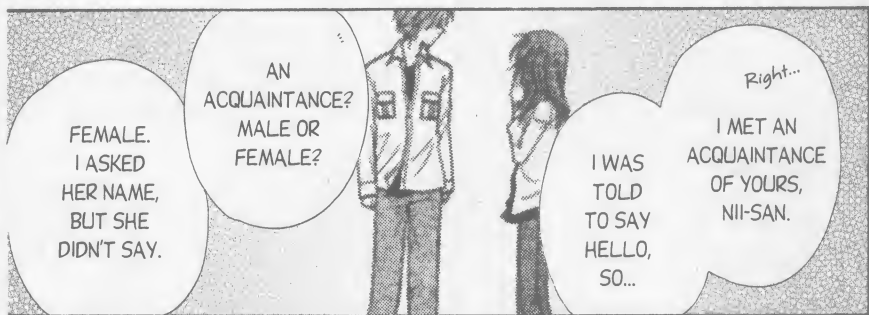
I NEVER DREAMED THAT WOULDN'T BE IT!

THAT WAS RANDOM.

Ugh.

YOU HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT! YOU MAY COME TO ME AT ONCE!

click



FEMALE. I ASKED HER NAME, BUT SHE DIDN'T SAY.

AN ACQUAINTANCE? MALE OR FEMALE?

Right...

I WAS TOLD TO SAY HELLO, SO...

I MET AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS, NII-SAN.



SHE DID MENTION THAT SHE'S INDEBTED TO YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE FELLOW STUDENT-BODY PRESIDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL.



"AND WE'RE
THIRD-YEARS...
SO WE'LL
RETIRE
SOON AND
GRADUATE."

"THE
EVENTS
ARE ALL
OVER."

"SO I
JUST..."

"....!"

"I LIKE YOU,
AYAME-KUN!"



"AND I..."

"I ALWAYS
HAVE!"



HE DID...

...A VERY
CRUEL
THING.

"AYAME-
KUN!"

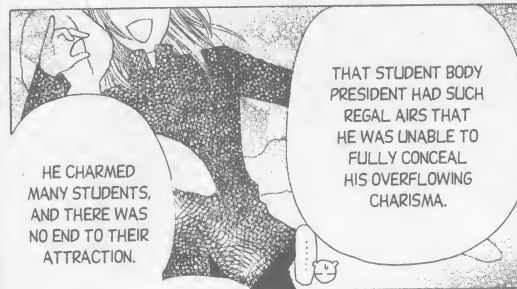


AND IT
WASN'T
ONLY IN
REGARDS
TO THIS
GIRL.

HE DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
THE FEELINGS
OF OTHER
PEOPLE
AT ALL.

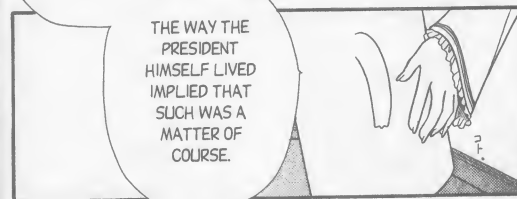
HE DIDN'T
EVEN TRY
TO KNOW.

SURELY YOU
HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN?



HE CHARMED
MANY STUDENTS,
AND THERE WAS
NO END TO THEIR
ATTRACTION.

THAT STUDENT BODY
PRESIDENT HAD SUCH
REGAL AIRS THAT
HE WAS UNABLE TO
FULLY CONCEAL
HIS OVERFLOWING
CHARISMA.

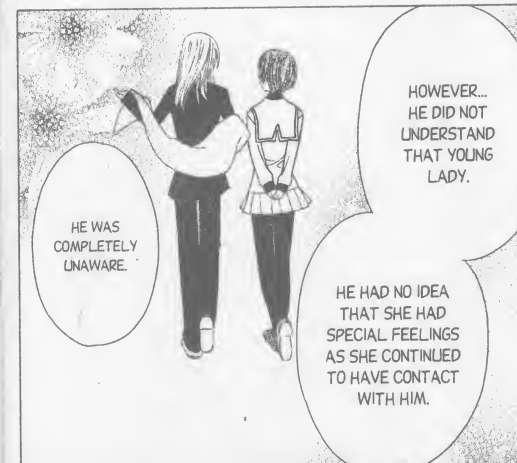


THE WAY THE
PRESIDENT
HIMSELF LIVED
IMPLIED THAT
SUCH WAS A
MATTER OF
COURSE.



INEVITABLY, HE
OFTEN WORKED WITH
THE STUDENT-BODY
PRESIDENT OF SAID
GIRLS' SCHOOL.

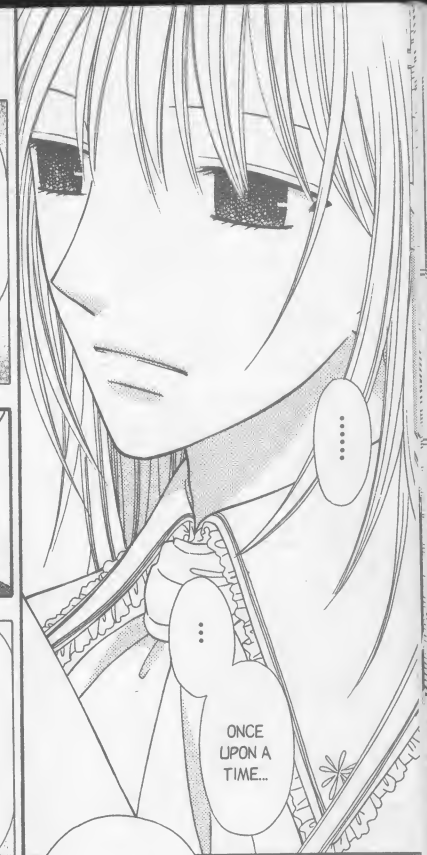
AT THAT TIME,
COUNTLESS
EVENTS WERE
HELD TO DEEPEEN
A FRIENDSHIP
WITH AN ALL-GIRL
SISTER SCHOOL.



HE WAS
COMPLETELY
UNAWARE.

HOWEVER...
HE DID NOT
UNDERSTAND
THAT YOUNG
LADY.

HE HAD NO IDEA
THAT SHE HAD
SPECIAL FEELINGS
AS SHE CONTINUED
TO HAVE CONTACT
WITH HIM.



ONCE
UPON A
TIME...



...THERE WAS
A BEAUTIFUL
WHITE-HAIRED
STUDENT BODY
PRESIDENT.

OKAY?



"I WONDER IF THAT MIGHT BE BECAUSE YOU HAVE SO LITTLE PERSONALITY THAT YOU COULDN'T LEAVE AN IMPRESSION?"

"IS THAT SO? THEN I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT I'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN!"



"YES! YOU PUT IT WONDERFULLY, GURE-SAN!"

"IT IS INDEED AS THOUGH SHE'S FIGHTING A ONE-MAN SUMO MATCH!"

"BUT NOT TO WORRY! AT LEAST NOW YOU'VE RECOGNIZED YOUR FLAWS."

"NOW YOU CAN BE GREATLY--"

"LIKE A ONE-MAN SUMO-WRESTLING MATCH."



"WELL! SHALL WE BE OFF, TORI-SAN? GURE-SAN?"

"HUH...?"

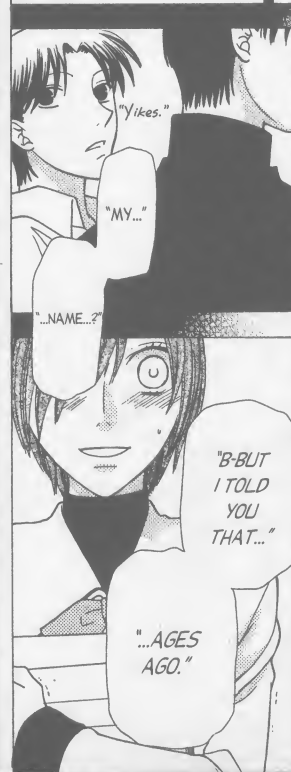
"IS THAT SO?"

"THANK YOU VERY MUCH!"

"PLEASE CONTINUE TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AFTER GRADUATION."

"A YAME ..."

"OH, YES! ONE LAST THING."



"Yikes."

"MY ..."

"...NAME...?"

"B-BUT I TOLD YOU THAT..."

"...AGES AGO."



"WHAT IS YOUR NAME?"

"I DON'T MIND REMEMBERING IT, IN COMMEMORATION."



"...ARE
PEOPLE
WHO GET
HURT."

"IT'S
THAT
PEOPLE
GET
HURT."

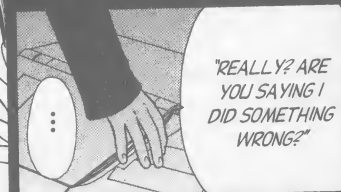
"OUT
THERE..."



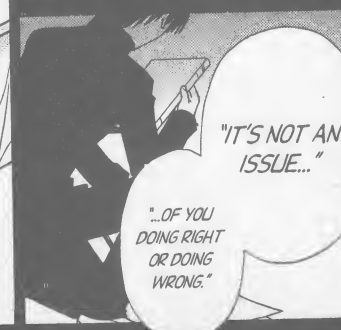
"ER...
WHAT
WAS
THAT?"

"WHY
IS SHE
CRYING?"

"PROBABLY
BECAUSE
YOU HURT
HER."



"REALLY? ARE
YOU SAYING I
DID SOMETHING
WRONG?"



"IT'S NOT AN
ISSUE..."

"...OF YOU
DOING RIGHT
OR DOING
WRONG."



"NOW."

"HAVEN'T
YOU DONE
ENOUGH?"



"STOP IT."



"I'M..."

"I'M SO
STUPID!"



"S-STUPID."



SHE'S YOUR
GIRLFRIEND,
ISN'T SHE?



I WAS
HAPPY TO
BE WITH
HER.

SHE BEGAN
TO WORK
WITH ME.

"I HAVE NO
POSITIVE
PROOF..."

"...THAT I
CAN MAKE
YOU HAPPY"

INDEED.

THAT GIRL
APPEARED
BEFORE ME
BY CHANCE.

SOMEHOW.

...I DON'T
THINK I EVER
PROCLAIMED
THAT THAT
WAS THE
CASE.

YOU HAVEN'T,
BUT I CAN
TELL.



WHAT
WAS IT?

IT MADE
ME
WONDER.

HAD I
LIVED
MY
LIFE...

...OVERLOOKING
MANY
EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT
THINGS?

...WAS IT
MINE-SAN?

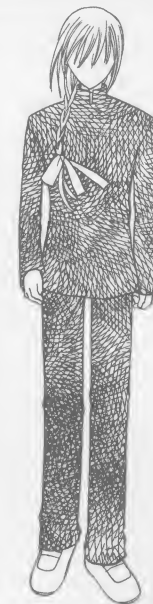
DID SHE
HELP YOU
REALIZE
THAT?

BUT IT WAS
AS IF THAT
EVENT HAD
LEFT A TAG IN
MY MEMORY.

FOR A LONG
TIME AFTER,
I WOULD
GLANCE BACK
AT IT IN A
CORNER OF
MY MIND.



AT THE
TIME...



...I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT TORI-
SAN MEANT.



"THANK
HEAVENS."

"I WAS
TERRIBLY
AFRAID..."

"...THAT
YOU
MIGHT
REJECT
ME."



"ARE YOU
SAD ABOUT
SOMETHING?"

"TO WANT
SOMEONE..."

"...BUT ENDING
UP TRAMPLED
BY THEM."

"NOW I
SEE."



"THAT'S
HOW PEOPLE
GET HURT."

"OH."

"THAT'S IT."

"I SEE NOW."



"MY
HAPPINESS..."

"...IS A
PERSONAL
DECISION."



"MINE WON'T
DISAPPEAR."

"DON'T
WORRY."



"SO I
WANT TO
BE HERE
FOREVER."

"MINE'S
HEART
BELONGS
TO HER
MANAGER."

"...IS THAT
ALL
RIGHT?"



"BUT IF I TOLD
YOU, I LOVE YOU..."

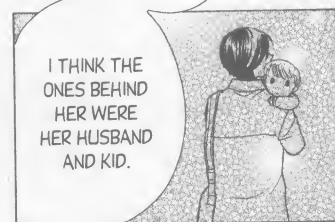
"...I CAN'T
HELP BUT
WONDER."

"WILL YOU
DISAPPEAR?"



...SHE
WASN'T
ANGRY OR
SAD OR
ANYTHING.

SHE LAUGHED
LIKE SHE WAS
EMBARRASSED.



I THINK THE
ONES BEHIND
HER WERE
HER HUSBAND
AND KID.



A
a
h!

BUT
NEVERTHELESS,
PERHAPS IT'S
TOO LATE TO DO
ANYTHING! DO
I EMBODY HER
TRAUMA?!

PERHAPS I
APPEAR IN
HER DREAMS
EVERY NIGHT
AND CAUSE HER
SUFFERING!

HOW
MISERABLE!

UM,
BY THE
WAY...



SHE
PROBABLY
TRUDGES
RIGHT
THROUGH
THINGS.

SHE'S
PROBABLY
A REALLY
STRONG
PERSON.

A HARD
WORKER,
YOU KNOW?



DON'T
ASSUME
SHE STAYED
MISERABLE
FOREVER.

MAYBE
YOU DID
SCAR HER
FOR LIFE.



BUT IF SHE
WENT THROUGH
A LOT OF THINGS
THAT WERE
SOMETIMES
BETTER AND
SOMETIMES
WORSE...

...AND SHE CAN
STILL SMILE
LIKE SHE DID IN
FRONT OF ME...

"IT WAS
TERRIBLE AND
CRUEL."



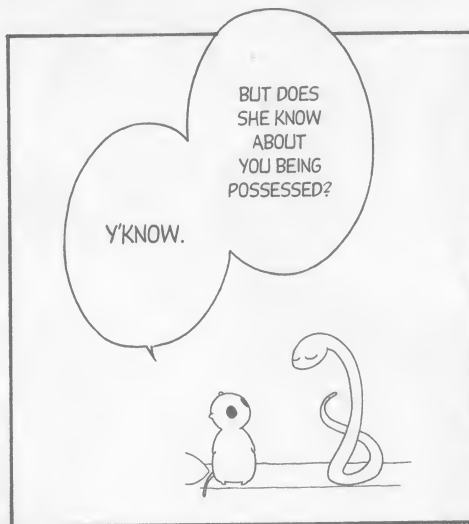
"WHAT A CRUEL
THING I DID."

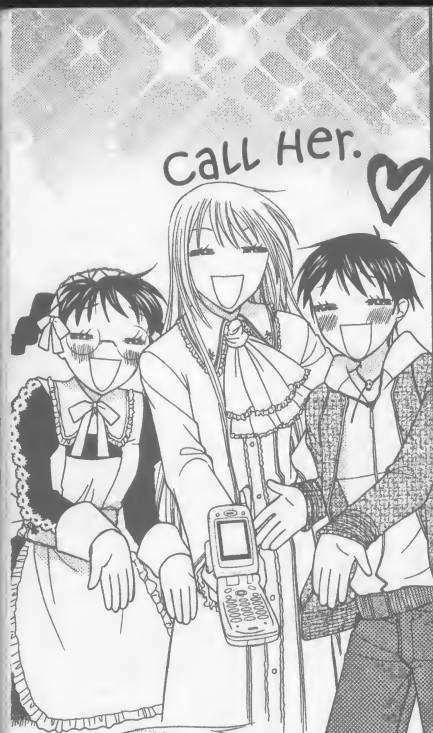


...IF I'D BEEN
ABLE TO
APOLOGIZE.

HOW MUCH
BETTER
IT WOULD
HAVE
BEEN...

!





Call Her. ♡



I'M STARTING TO FEEL SORRY FOR HER.

YIKES.



SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.

MEN ARE SAD CREATURES.

MAIDS ARE PRETTY HOT.



MY, MY. "MACHI"? YOU MEAN YELLOW, DO YOU NOT?

YOU ACT ALL STRAIGHT-LACED, BUT IF MACHI DRESSED UP LIKE THAT, I KNOW YOU'D TOTALLY GEEK OUT!

THIS IS WHY I HATE SPOILED RICH KIDS!

HEY! MACHI'S YOUR SISTER, SORT OF! STOP BEING SO GROSS ABOUT HER!

WHY WOULD YOU GO GA-GA FOR HER?

This isn't a big-brother topic.



whisper whisper whisper



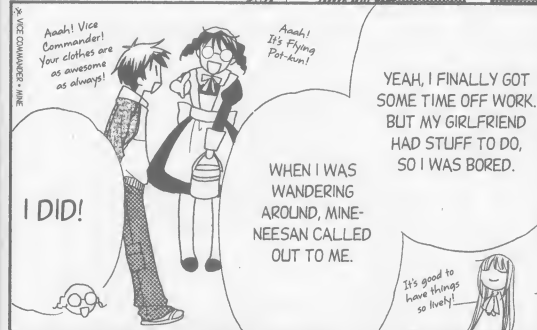
MINE-SAN!

BEHIND YOU! TH-THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND YOU...!

I GOT HELD UP BUYING DONUTS!

YEAH, THE PLACE WAS PACKED.

Sorry to keep you waiting!



I DID!

WHEN I WAS WANDERING AROUND, MINE-NEESAN CALLED OUT TO ME.

YEAH, I FINALLY GOT SOME TIME OFF WORK. BUT MY GIRLFRIEND HAD STUFF TO DO, SO I WAS BORED.

It's good to have things so lively!



I DIDN'T THINK I WAS INTO THAT, BUT...

HEY, YUN-YUN. Y'KNOW SOMETHING?

YES, SIR!

WONDERFUL JOB! I GIVE YOU MY COMPLIMENTS.

I BROUGHT MUFFINS!



What the heck, Yun-Yun? It's me, your pal! Have you forgotten me already?!

I KNOW I'M ALWAYS ASKING THIS...

...BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I'LL MAKE TEA RIGHT AWAY!



...



HOW
COULD
YOU...?

...



HE'S SO
COLD.

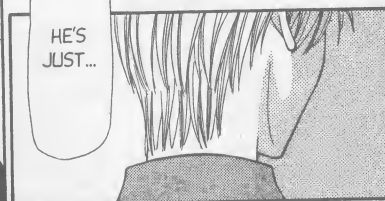
FINE.

I DON'T
CARE
ANYMORE!



UM...

HE'S
LEAVING.



HE'S
JUST...



REALLY.



DO YOU
THINK THAT
IF YOU STAY
IN THERE...

...THE
WORLD
WILL
BECOME
WHAT YOU
WANT IT
TO BE?

.....

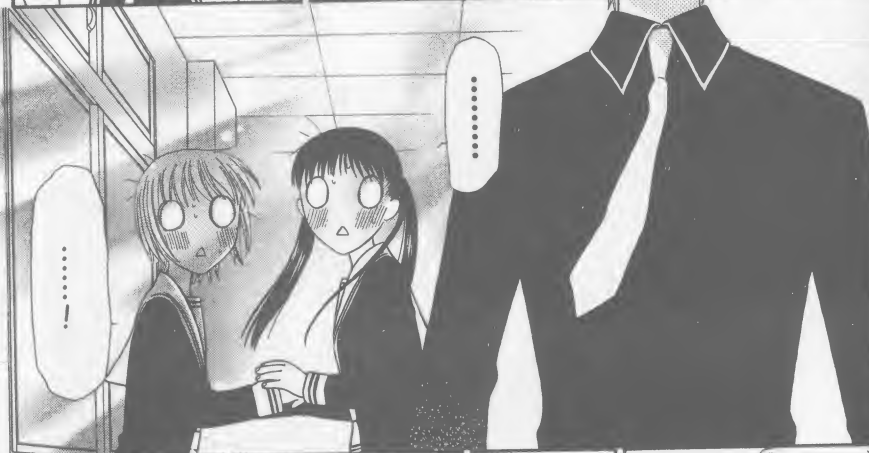


IS THERE
SOME
REASON...

...YOU'RE
KEEPING
YOURSELF
LOCKED UP
LIKE THAT?

○

IT'S
BEEN
AGES.



TIME IS
MOVING
ON...

...AND
LEAVING
YOU
BEHIND.

PEOPLE
AND
FEELINGS,
TOO.

THINKING
LIKE THAT
WON'T HELP
A THING.



I'M
HURTING.
AND IF HE
DOESN'T
WANT TO
BE NICE
TO ME...



...WHEN I'M
REALLY
HURTING...



...THEN I
DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
HIM
ANY-
MORE!



IT'S NOT
GOING TO
HELP.

Continued →

• I'm very thankful that Furuba has been translated into many languages and is on sale in various countries. Thank you very much! I'm getting all your letters.

Really, thank you. It's incredible that my manga is traveling to countries that I haven't been to myself. Going back to Ayame, I wonder how his crazy lines are being translated. He seems hard to translate. (laugh) (Incidentally, I get the feeling that Kyo is the most popular, even overseas.)

• There was a scene where Ayame's mother was disgusted with him and screamed, but his father screams, too.

• Actually, even Akito can't stand Ayame.

• Ayame met Mine at his shop.

• He and Mine are living together.

• There's an apartment on the second floor of the store.

← To be continued...





NO, WE'RE DONE FOR TODAY.

YUKI! YOU DON'T HAVE STUDENT COUNCIL?

TOHRU AND I ARE GONNA EAT ICE CREAM.

HOW ABOUT WE BUY A WHOLE BUNCH AND EAT IT AT SHII-CHAN'S HOUSE?!

WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA!

AMAZING.

HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT THEM, THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING BUT A CLOSE COUPLE.

PEOPLE WOULD MISUNDERSTAND THAT.

OH!

IT'S YUKI AND HARU!

ARE YOU GOING HOME NOW?

Yes!

LIKE A PRINCE!

Really?! I'm Handsome?!

WOW.

YEAH?

HEH HEH!

BUT STILL.

I'M A MAN, AFTER ALL.



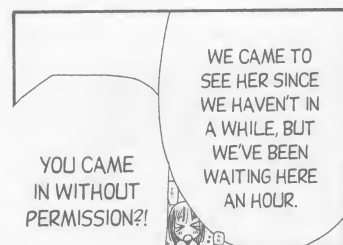
EVERYONE'S STILL LOOKING AT ME AND GETTING SURPRISED.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU GREW SO FAST AND BECAME SO HANDSOME!

I'M HAPPY THAT I GOT SO TALL.

THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T DO OR AREN'T ALLOWED TO DO UNLESS YOU'RE SMALL.

I MEAN, BEING SMALL WAS STILL FUN.





WOW.

HE'S REALLY NICE, ISN'T HE?



AND HE ALWAYS SEEMS SO NICE TO ONEE-CHAN.



YEAH, I SAW.

AND HE SAID HI BACK!

HIRO-CHAN, I SAID HI!



I GUESS.



HELLO!

UM...

HEL...

I'D PREFER THE STUPID TO THE ATTITUDE.

OH!



And while you're at it, wait for the house while I'm gone.

Sure, come in. Right in through here.

HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO THE MAIN ESTATE.

WE CAME IN AS SHIGURE-NIISAN WAS LEAVING.

Sigh.

Do you see now?



ANYWAY.

SHE SHOULD BE HOME SOON.



HI.



OH.

.....?

"NOT
NICE AT
ALL."

"AREN'T
I BEING
NICE TO
YOU?"

"BE
NICER!"

"NICER,
NICER..."

PLEASE.

WHY DON'T
YOU TRY
BEING A
LITTLE
NICER TO
HIM?

"I WANT
YOU..."

"...TO
STOP
TREATING
HIM SO
COLDLY..."

PLEASE.

I KNOW
YOU'RE
DOING IT ON
PURPOSE.

I'M DOING IT
ON PURPOSE.

BUT,
GOSH.

...YOU
SOMETIMES
LOOK LIKE
YOU HATE
AKITO WITH
ALL YOUR
HEART.

LISTEN.

STOP
COMPETING
WITH SOMEONE
YOUNGER THAN
YOU TO SEE
WHO'S MORE
STUBBORN.

EVEN FROM MY
PERSPECTIVE...

THIS IS MY
HOUSE.

...I GET THE
FEELING THAT
EVERY TIME
YOU GO TO SEE
HIM, HE SHUTS
HIMSELF OFF
EVEN MORE.

WHAT IS
THIS? YOU
APPEAR OUT
OF NOWHERE
AND START
RIGHT IN ON
THE LECTURE.

TELL
ME.

DO YOU EVER
GET TIRED
OF COMING
HERE TO SAY
CRUEL THINGS
TO AKITO?

YOU'RE
TOO OLD
TO BE SO
PERVERSE.

YOU KNOW THAT
AKITO GETS
MORE AND MORE
OBSTINATE
BECAUSE YOU
NEVER SHOW
HIM ANYTHING
IN YOUR
HAND.

AWW.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!
ISN'T THAT,
LIKE, SUPER
BAD?!

SIGH.

AT TIMES,
I'M PAINED
THAT
WE'RE THE
SAME AGE.



...MAYBE
THAT'S A
VERY LONELY
THING IN AND
OF ITSELF.

REALLY.

WHAT
SOMEONE
LIKE ME...

...SHOULD
HAVE
DREAMED
OF...

!



IF AKITO
WANTS THAT
KIND OF
"KINDNESS"
FROM ME...

WHAT?

IF AKITO
WANTS
YOUR
TOLERANT
KINDNESS...

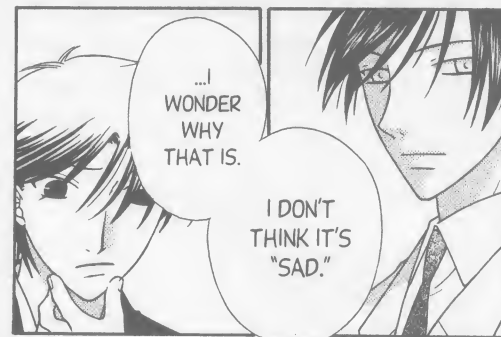
...OR KURENO-
KUN'S
INNOCENT
KINDNESS...

I'M A JERK BY
NATURE, SO
WHAT CAN
YOU DO?

Right?

NOW
YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
TRYING.

Anyway!



...I
WONDER
WHY
THAT IS.

I DON'T
THINK IT'S
"SAD."

TO BE HONEST,
THE FACT
THAT I'M
POSSESSED
ISN'T THAT
SERIOUS AN
INJURY TO ME.

...I NEVER EVEN
PARTICULARLY
WANTED MY
PARENTS' LOVE.

BUT WHY
IS IT? FOR
EXAMPLE...



IF YOU CALL
THIS "BEING
TWISTED"...

THE FACT
THAT I CAN'T
EVEN THINK
OF THAT
AS "SAD"...

...THEN I
GUESS I
REALLY AM.

HUH.



YOU
MAY SAY
THAT...

BUT IN THE END,
MY "NICENESS" IS
THE POSTSCRIPT
OF SOMETHING
PUT TOGETHER
AT THE LAST
MINUTE.

IT'S NO
MATCH,
RIGHT?

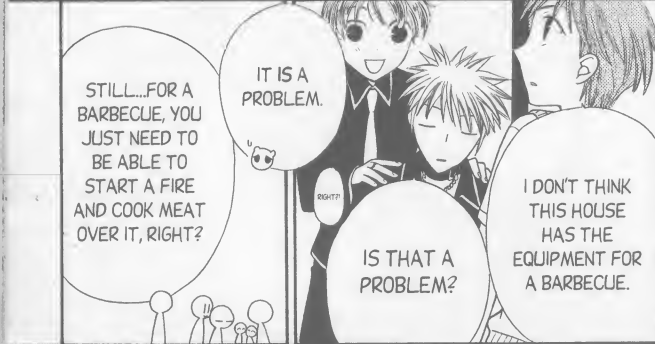
FOR YOUR
"REAL"
KINDNESS.



EXCUSE ME, HONDA-SAN.

THERE'S SOMETHING WE WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

I FIGURED THAT IF SHE'S MAKING US DINNER, AND SHE DOESN'T CARE, THEN IT'S NOT REALLY A PROBLEM.



STILL...FOR A BARBECUE, YOU JUST NEED TO BE ABLE TO START A FIRE AND COOK MEAT OVER IT, RIGHT?

IT IS A PROBLEM.

IS THAT A PROBLEM?

I DON'T THINK THIS HOUSE HAS THE EQUIPMENT FOR A BARBECUE.



WHAT'S HE PLANNING TO DO?!

..YEAH.

THIS'LL BURN NICELY.



Oh?

O-OF COURSE! WHAT IS IT?

WELCOME BACK.

Let's Have a barbecue!



BOY.

WE'VE GOT A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE. WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT DINNER?

A barbecue! Let's Have a barbecue!

THIS HOUSE DOESN'T NEED ANY GUARDIANS.

BUT HIRO, KISA, IF YOU'RE GONNA COME OVER, YOU NEED TO CALL AND TELL SOMEONE.

I DO FEEL A LITTLE BAD ABOUT THAT.

BARBE-CUUUUE!

BUT...



IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO BE THE KID'S "FATHER."

LET'S BE FAIR.



DOES HE, LIKE...

...LIKE HER?



I'LL GO CALL HIM.



DOES KYO...? Y'KNOW.

HEY.



WHAT'S THE MATTER?

は？

You're so strong-willed!

IT'S OKAY TO BE A LITTLE NAUGHTY.



OH, ER... WHERE'S KYO-KUN?

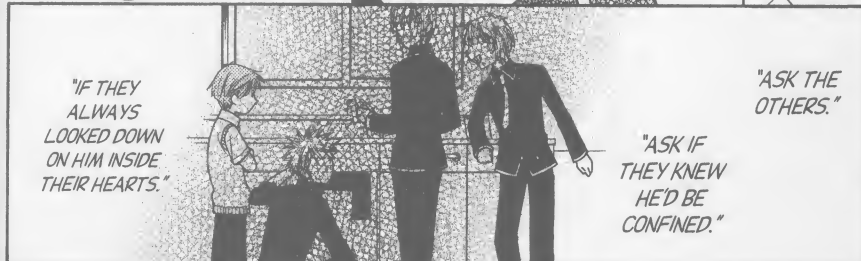
"GO AHEAD."

AH. I see.

I THINK HE'S IN HIS ROOM.

LET'S JUST HAVE CURRY.

FORGET IT--THEY CAN'T HELP US.



"IF THEY ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN ON HIM INSIDE THEIR HEARTS."

"ASK THE OTHERS."

"ASK IF THEY KNEW HE'D BE CONFINED."



Oh!

N-NO! UM... KYO-KUN!

He isn't here, so...!

YOU'RE RIGHT-- KYO'S NOT HERE!

WHAT'S WRONG, TOHRU?

You'll make yourself sick.



Wow-- even the middle schooler's figured it out.

...IS IT BAD FOR HIM TO "LIKE" HER?



Huh?!

WELL, CRAP.

THE CAT IS...



HIRO.

IS...

YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO CROSS THE BRIDGE THAT EVERYONE AVOIDS, DON'T YOU?

YEAH, I KNOW THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.

Erk!





C'MON.

IF YOU GIVE UP, THAT KINDA THING MIGHT HAPPEN.

THINK ABOUT IT.



...MAYBE...

...TOHRU'S GONNA ACCEPT WHEN I PROPOSE.



I'M GONNA STOP GIVING UP ON THE CAT.

IT APPLIES TO ME, TOO. I'M GONNA STOP TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.

THAT'S WHY...

...IT'S NOT GOOD TO GIVE UP.



SO WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU GUYS?

ARE YOU GONNA EAT BEFORE YOU LEAVE?

IT'S OKAY--WE SWITCHED TO CURRY!



Listen.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M AGAINST IT OR ANYTHING.

I'M JUST... DEPRESSED, I GUESS? OR WORRIED.

THOUGH IT'S PROBABLY A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT.



Guess I walked into that one.

AND THEN... AND THEN MAAAAAYBE...



Let's change the subject.

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT I WON'T BOTHER ASKING.

YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY BIG.

RIGHT?!

SOON, I'LL BE BIGGER THAN YOU!

I MIGHT EVEN BE HANDSOMER THAN YOU!



IT'S
"LATE."

BUT
STILL.

IF TOHRU
WAS
TAKEN BY
ANOTHER
MAN...

WOULDN'T
YOU
REGRET IT?



LOOK--

Ah! Oh
no!
WE HAVE TO
HURRY BACK
AND HELP MAKE
THE CURRY!
C'MON, LET'S GO!

HOLD
ON A--

...TO MAKE
YOURSELF
HAPPY.

WHAT
YOU
SHOULD
DO...

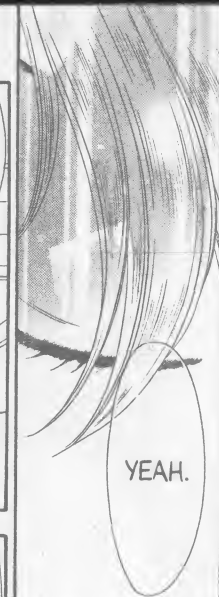


NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
WE GLOSS
IT OVER.

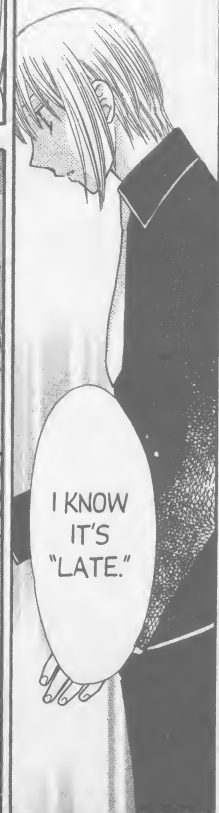
BUT
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY.



WE SHOULD
THINK
ABOUT IT
IN SIMPLER
TERMS,
Y'KNOW?



YEAH.



I KNOW
IT'S
"LATE."



IT'S
PRETTY
LATE
IN THE
GAME FOR
THAT.



MAYBE I SHOULD'VE DREAMED OF YOU.

YOU, MAYBE.



HOW ARE THINGS? DOING YOUR BEST?

SHIGURE-SAN, HAVE YOU HAD DINNER YET?

HEY THERE, TOHRU-KUN.



I'M DOING MY...

ER, YES!

OH!



WELL.

OR SO I'VE BEEN THINKING THESE DAYS.

SHIGURE-SA...?



...IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PERSON WHO NEEDS SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

MAYBE SOMEONE LIKE ME...



WHAT AN ODD FEELING.

COMING BACK TO YOUR OWN HOUSE AND SEEING FOOD RELIEF BEING GIVEN OUT IN YOUR YARD.



WAIT A MINUTE.

DOES THIS MEAN... EVERYONE KNOWS? DOES EVERYBODY KNOW?!



Hey, no slacking!



Welcome home!

* Apparently they tried making barbecue-style curry.

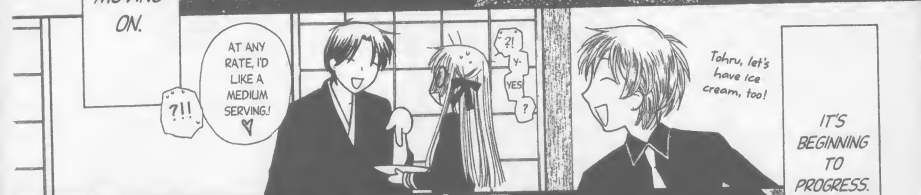
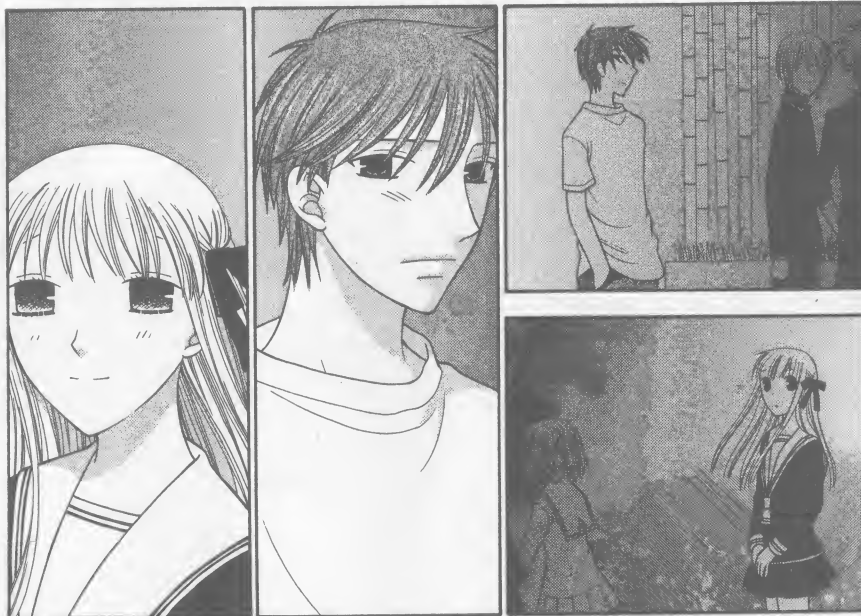


I'M HOME, CHILDREN!

IT'S YOUR DADDY!

YUKI-NII, WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

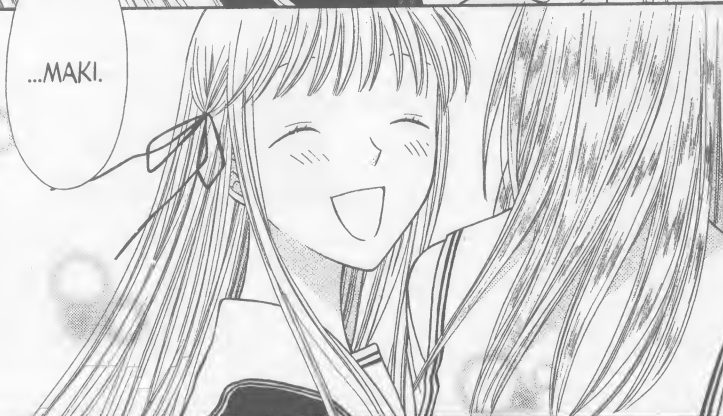
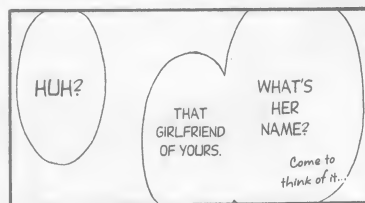
HE'S AN IDIOT. IGNORE HIM.





Chapter 112







IT'S FOR
THE
TROUBLE
I CAUSED
THE OTHER
DAY.

HERE,
MACHI.

?

IT'S A
LITTLE
LATE, BUT
THIS IS A
PRESENT
WITH MY
APOLOGY.



IT DOESN'T
CHANGE THE
FACT THAT
THE GUYS
YOUR BROTHER,
YUN-YUN.

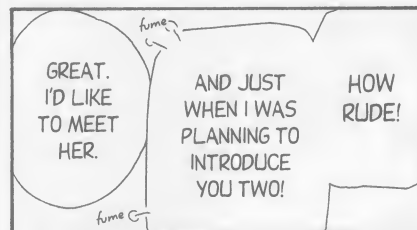


IT'S
OKAY.



I'M
REALLY
SORRY!
THEY
MEAN
WELL...

THEY
JUST...LIVE
IN A VERY
BIZARRE
REALITY.



GREAT.
I'D LIKE
TO MEET
HER.

AND JUST
WHEN I WAS
PLANNING TO
INTRODUCE
YOU TWO!

HOW
RUDE!



HOO, YEAH!
NOW YOU'RE
AT THE POINT
WHERE YOU
CAN SAY THAT!

I WANT TO
ASK HOW
ON EARTH
SHE PUTS
UP WITH
YOU.



AND SHE'S
REAL, RIGHT?
LIVING AND
BREATHING?

WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?!



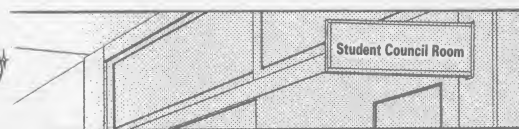
ANYWAY,
STOP BEING
STUPID SO
WE CAN GO TO
THE STUDENT
COUNCIL
ROOM.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT
TO GIVE
MACHI.

WHAT IS
IT, WHAT
IS IT?!

Huh?

C'mon



Continued →

• I haven't done his "Thumbs-up Good!" with Shigure lately...

But I want to.

• He and Shigure are complete mabudachi, but his regard for Hatori is close to respect and admiration. I think it's because Hatori thinks so completely differently from how he does.



• When I tried to give her eyes that would be unsettling if one were to make eye contact, she became awfully hard work.

Isuzu.

• Although currently, she's gone back to having normal eyes.

• With her father and mother, Rin is in a family of three.

• All relations with her parents have been severed at this point. Her parents live on the "inside," but they don't go near her.

← To be continued...

Damn.

LOOKS LIKE THE PAIN IN THE BUTT IS HERE.

SO YOU GIVE PRESENTS TO MACHI...

BUT YOU DON'T GIVE A SINGLE THING TO POOR LITTLE KIMI.

THEN APOLOGIZE TO KIMI, TOO!

APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT?!

I WANNA KNOW HOW SINCERE YUN-YUN IS!

HOW CAN YOU TALK LIKE THAT, NAO-CHAN?! THAT'S AWFUL!

THIS PRESENT IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO BE MY APOLOGY FOR--

LET ME EXPLAIN, KIMI.

IT'S NOT AS IF YOU CALLED ME THERE, PRESIDENT.

NO, REALLY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WELL, YES.

THAT'S TRUE.

RIGHT.

Kakuru called her there.

OH, C'MON-- WHO CARES? THAT STUFF'S ALL IN THE PAST.

And it was fun!

BACK ME UP, NAO-CHAN. THEY'RE ALL ACCUSATORY AND STUFF!

H
M
M
M
M.

I DON'T CARE!

THAT WAS A VERY POOR ATTEMPT AT CHANGING THE SUBJECT.

IT'S NOT GONNA RAIN NOW. I WONDER WHEN THE RAINY SEASON STARTS...

WHAT, RAIN?



I don't
need
anything
like that.

AND HOW
CAN YOU
TALK LIKE
THAT,
NAO-
CHAN?

WANTING
OTHER
PEOPLE'S
THINGS IS
THE WORST!

THAT
WOULD
MAKE
YOU THE
WORST,
THEN.

YOU
HIT
ME?!



YOU GAVE
HER A
MOGETA?!

DO YOU
WANT
IT?



A
MOGETA...
PAPER
WEIGHT.

...IS WHAT...
THAT?

KIMI WOULD
NEVER WANT
SOMETHING
THAT BELONGED
TO SOMEONE
ELSE!

*You're so
mean!*

WHAT
ABOUT FIVE
SECONDS
AGO?!



HOW THE HELL
DO YOU MANAGE
TO BE SO
OVERCONFIDENT
ALL THE TIME?



EVEN
KINDERGARTENERS
ARE MORE
CONSIDERATE
THAN THAT.

I CAN'T. I
GAVE THAT
TO MACHI.

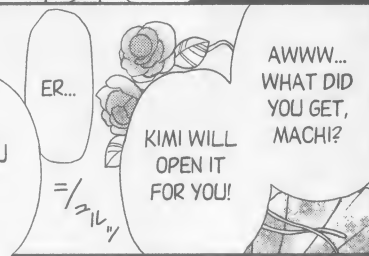
LET ME
HAVE
THIS.

HUH?



WHAT
DID YOU
GIVE
HER?

OH,
SOMETHING
GOOD.



ER...

KIMI WILL
OPEN IT
FOR YOU!

AWWW...
WHAT DID
YOU GET,
MACHI?



"W h a a a ?!"

"SHE'S
EVEN MORE
ARROGANT
THAN WE
FEARED!"

"YOU
ALL
THINK
THAT,
TOO?!"

shudder
shudder
shudder

That's exactly what
Kimi thought!!

NOW I
KNOW
WHO TO
BLAME!

Argh!

Thanks to her,
I've lost weight
and my
grades are
better. ♡ And
I've made lots
of boyfriends.
♡

IF SHE
HADN'T
SAID THOSE
WORDS,
I MIGHT
NOT'VE
BECOME
THE KIMI I
AM TODAY.

NO, MUST
STAY CALM...
I'M SURE THAT
GIRL'S KICKING
HERSELF
MORE THAN
ANYONE.

For now,
I'm just
glad she
didn't take
the present.

HEY.
YUKI-SAN.

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
WALTZED
IN LATE!

Come on,
come on!
Let's get
to work,
everyone.
♡

If only I
could travel
through
time!

I HAVE
TO FINISH
UP WORK
HERE AND
GET HOME
QUICK!

OH, YEAH—I
HAD A DATE
TODAY! EEK!

YES, IT
WAS...
BEFORE KIMI
ENTERED
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

SINCE THEN,
KIMI'S BEEN
POPULAR
WITH THE BOY
STUDENTS
AND MALE
TEACHERS.

STUPID
NAO.

HUH? WAIT...
I DON'T
ACTUALLY
WANT AN
EXPLANATION.

Please
don't
go into
flashback
mode.

I think
it all
started
that
day...
♡

"THERE
ARE TONS
MORE
BOYS OVER
THERE."

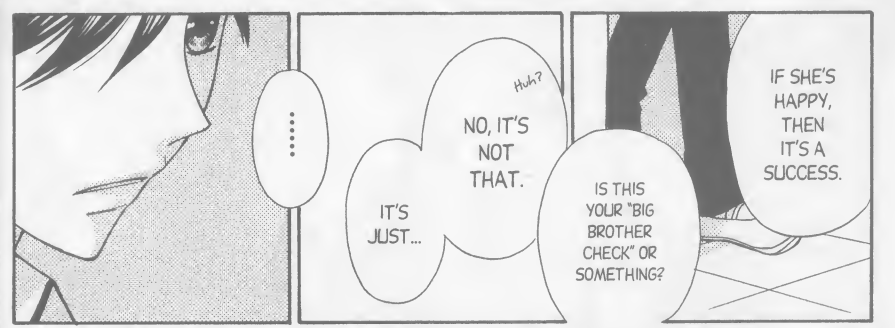
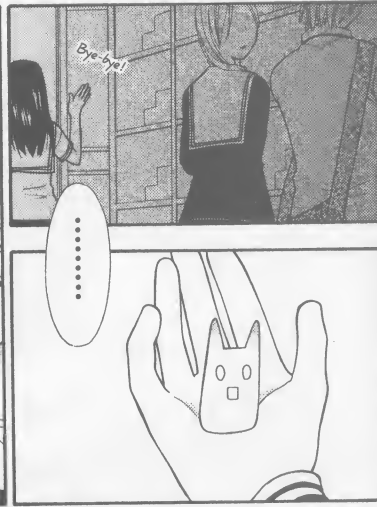
"TODO-SAN,
WHY ARE
YOU COMING
THIS WAY?"

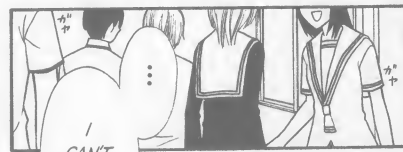
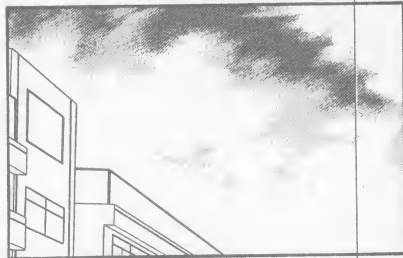
"YEAH. YOU
HAVE MORE
FUN WITH
THE BOYS,
DON'T YOU?"

"YOU COULD
LIVE YOUR
WHOLE LIFE
GETTING BY
ON JUST YOUR
LOOKS."

snicker

"IT'S NICE
TO HAVE A
CUTE FACE.
EVERYONE'S
WILLING
TO FORGIVE
WHATEVER'S
WRONG WITH
YOU."

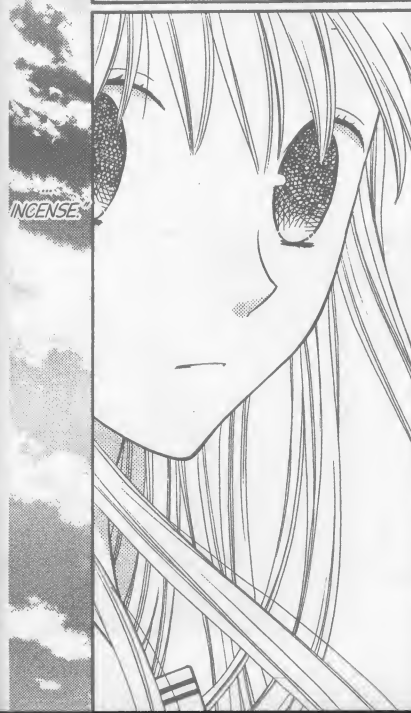








"MAY WE?"



"WE CAME."

"...TO BURN..."

"INCENSE."

"INCENSE"

"HANG ON A SEC."

"SERIOUSLY? PHYSICS."



HERE,
NABE.

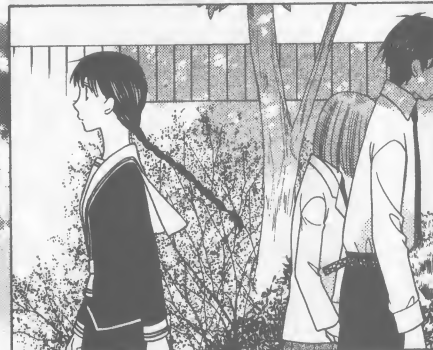
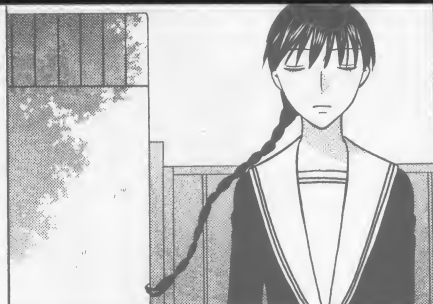
HUH?
OH,
THANKS!

DON'T
DRAW
WEIRD
PICTURES
IN IT,
OKAY?



I'LL
BRING
IT BACK
AFTER
SCHOOL.

SURE



"AND
DON'T
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA..."



"...AND
THINK
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
DESERVES
PITY."



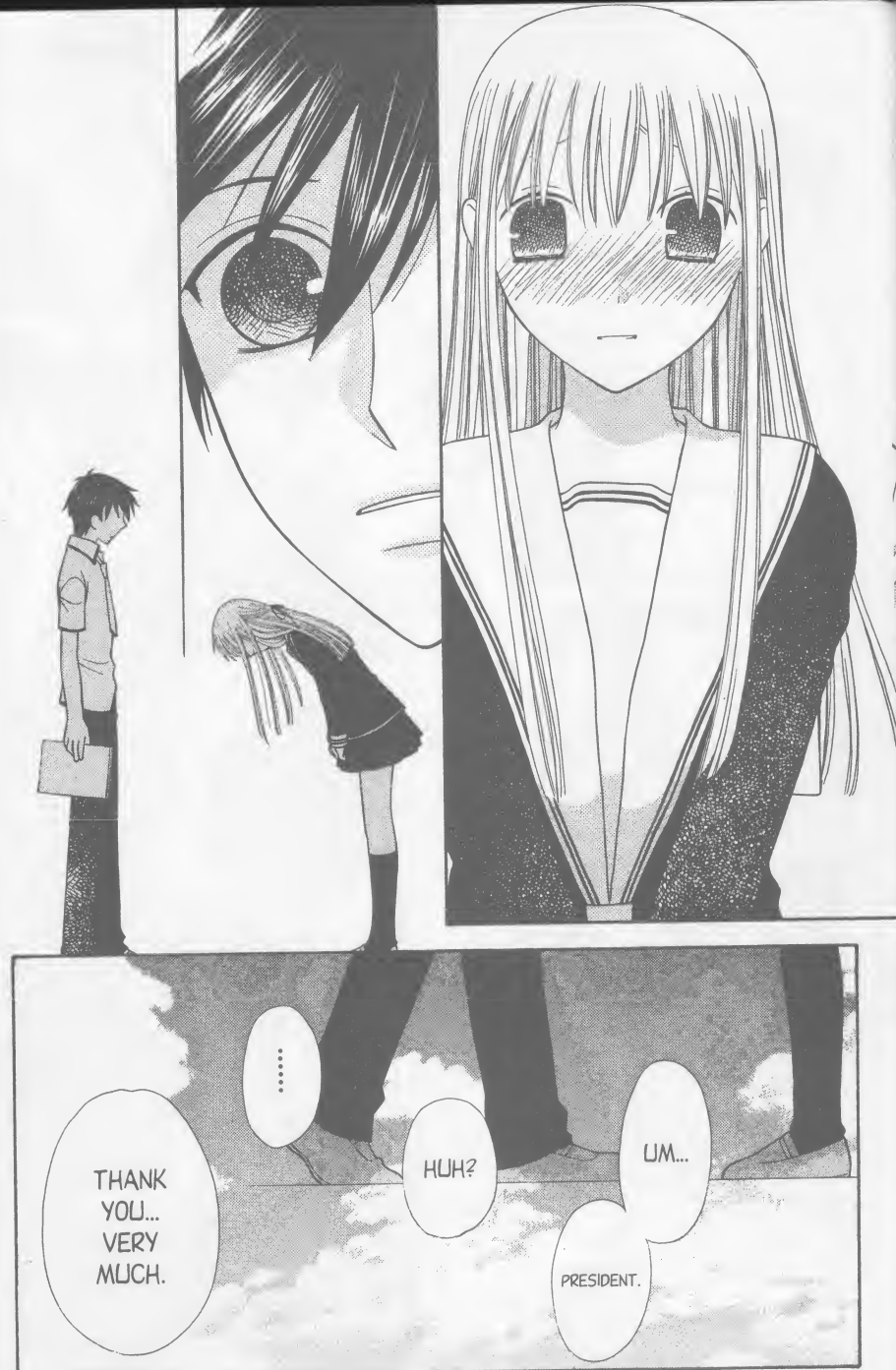
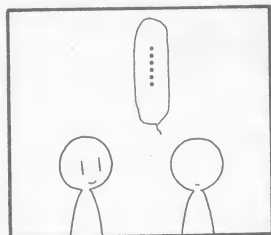
"YOU
MAKE
ME
SICK."



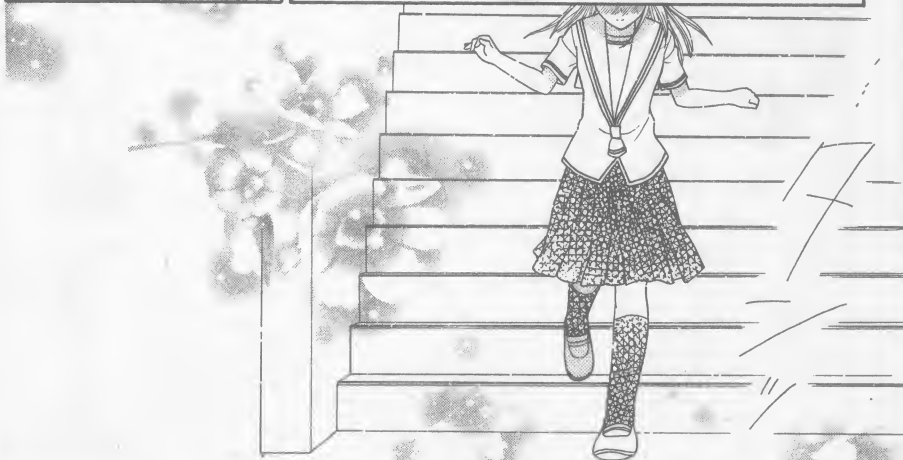
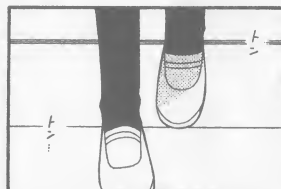
"DON'T
THINK..."



"...THAT
YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE
BLURDENED
WITH
ALL THE
MISERY."







"...WHEN
HONDA-SAN
SMILING..."

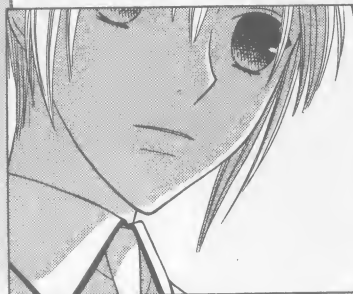
"...OR NOT
REMEMBERING
ME..."

"...WOULDN'T
HONESTLY
PISSED THE
HELL OUT
OF ME."

"THERE
WAS A
TIME..."

Cool!

We're
having
meal
today.



"...IF
HONDA-SAN
WASN'T
ALLOWED
TO DO
THAT."

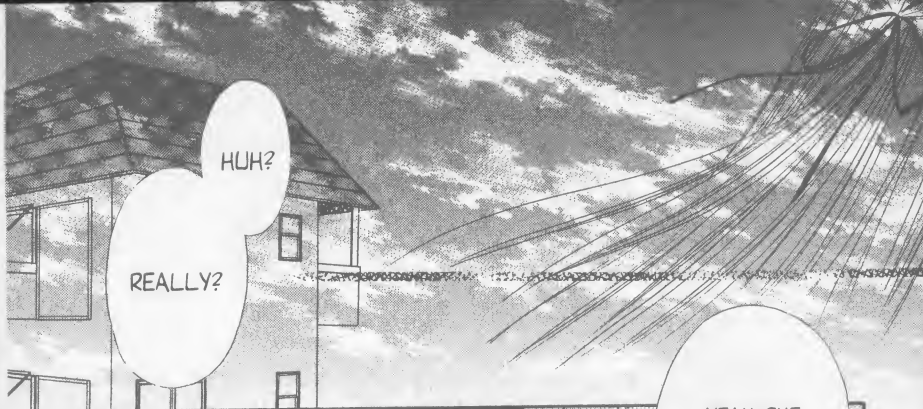
"BUT
KOMAKI'S
SMILING
FOR ME,
Y'KNOW?"

"IT
WOULDN'T
BE FAIR..."

"YOU KNOW
THAT
ACCIDENT
HONDA-
SAN'S MOM
WAS IN?"

"YOU..."

...



HUH?

REALLY?

YEAH. SHE
REMEMBERED
ME.

HONDA-SAN
ACTUALLY
REMEMBERED.

Earlier
today



WOW.



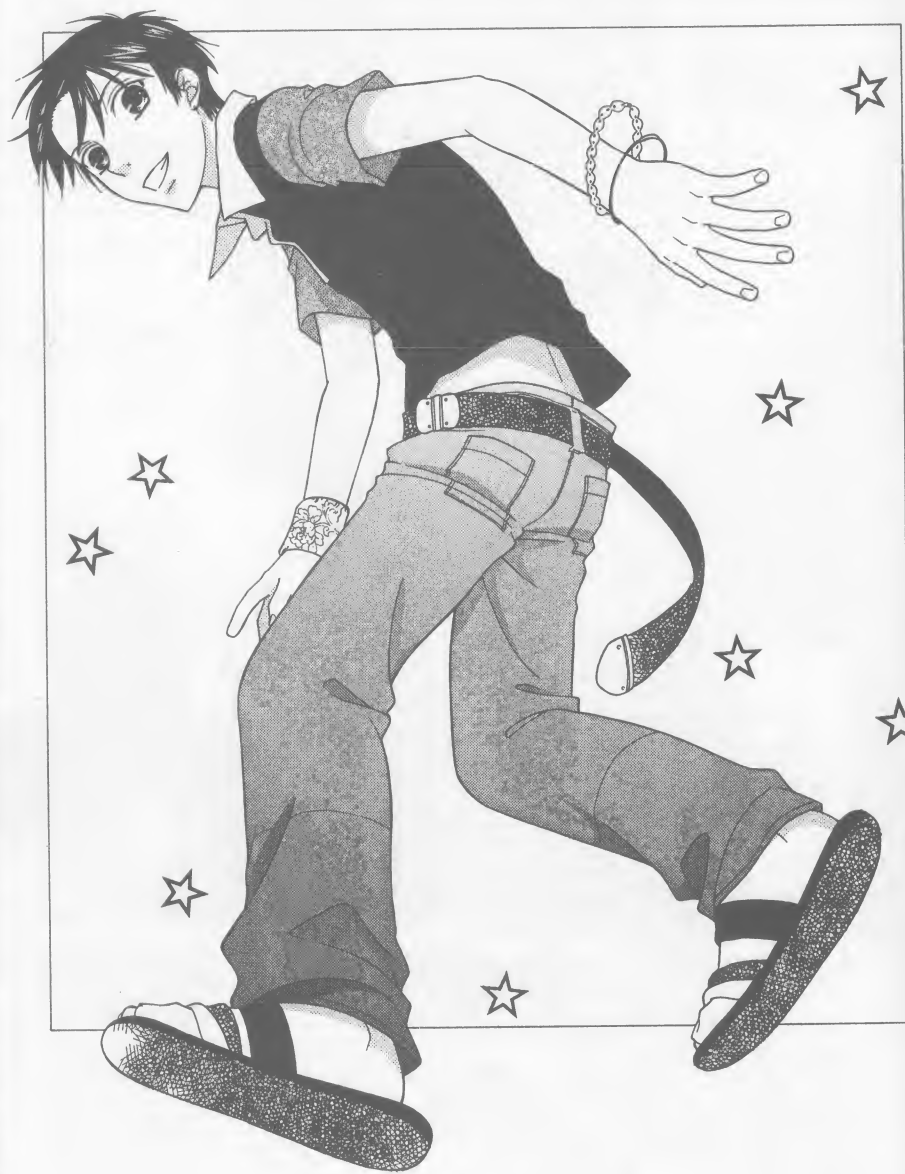
TAKING
YOUR
CLOTHES
OFF HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
THAT!

YOU
DIDN'T
PICK A
FIGHT
WITH HER
THIS TIME,
DID YOU?

I DIDN'T—I
SWEAR.
I'LL EVEN
TAKE
OFF MY
CLOTHES.

HA
HA!





Chapter 113

"...WHAT
A SAD
CONNECTION
TO HAVE."



"THE CAR
THAT
KOMAKI'S
DAD WAS
IN..."

"...RAN
INTO
HER."

"HER DAD
WAS KILLED
INSTANTLY."



I'LL BE
EATING
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

SORRY FOR
THE SHORT
NOTICE, BUT
I WON'T BE
NEEDING
DINNER
TONIGHT.

IT'S
DEPRESSING.

HONDA-
SAN.

YES!



HAVE
A GOOD
TIME!

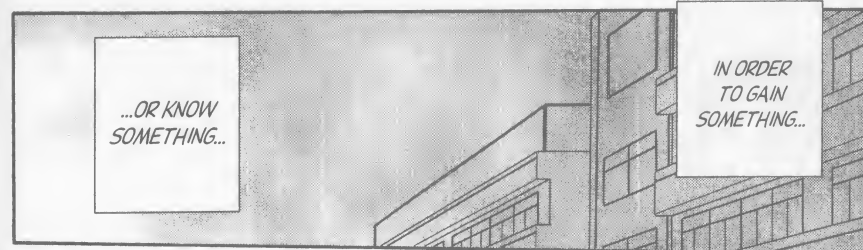


AH, YES!
ROGER
THAT!

ARE YOU
EATING
OUT WITH
FRIENDS?

IT'S NOT
REALLY
EATING
OUT, PER
SE.

IT
SUDDENLY
LOOKS
LIKE I'LL
BE EATING
AT VP
KAKERU'S
HOUSE.



...OR KNOW
SOMETHING...

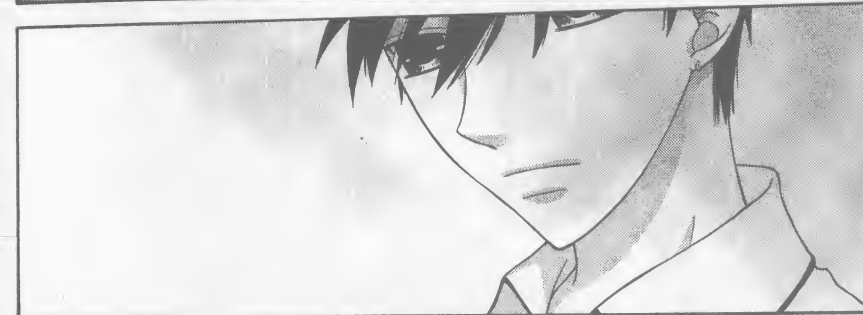
IN ORDER
TO GAIN
SOMETHING...



...MAYBE YOU
HAVE TO
SACRIFICE
SOMETHING.

OR HURT
SOMETHING.

NO
MATTER
WHAT
YOU DO.



Continued →

• Rin's eyes aside, I also constantly worry about her clothes. I always work so hard drawing them, but when I look at the finished drawing, I always think, "They're not very good..."

• I'm sorry...

• She's currently unemployed in the main story, but I think she'll be working in some form soon.

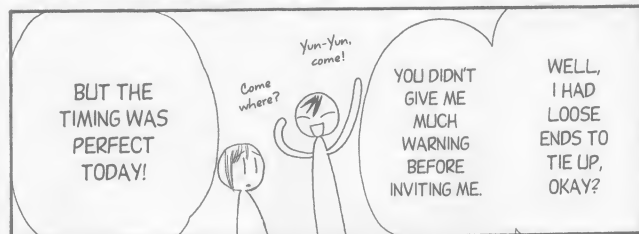
• After she has a bit of a break from life.

• When she was really little, she was pretty attached to Shigure. Looking back at him, Shigure's become a character who's loved by children. (laugh)

• Haru is her life.

• There probably isn't anything she doesn't like about Haru, but I think that since Haru is basically nice to everybody, she might be a little lonely in that regard. (I even had Hiro say it.)
• But they're mad about each other.

• I made Rin so that it would seem like, if you touched her carelessly and thoughtlessly, she'd fall apart with a crash, and even now I feel that way.





...SHE'S SMILING.

JUST LIKE SHE ALWAYS DOES.

EVEN ON THAT DAY.



...OR SMILING ABOUT NOTHING WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD.

AND I KNOW...

HMMM.

Gasps!

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT MEANS HONDA-SAN IS INSENSITIVE OR ANYTHING!

...NOW, ANYWAY.

I KNOW SHE WASN'T ACTING MISERABLE...



THAT'S...PRETTY IMPRESSIVE. BUT LISTEN.

THAT'S NOT WEIRD! IT'S HOW SHE IS! SHE CAN EVEN EAT STEAK FOR BREAKFAST!

はた☆

MY KOMAKI-SAN IS AN UNRIVALED LOVER OF MEAT! SHE'S A MEAT, MEAT, MEAT PERSON!

DOES SHE KNOW...

SHE'S A MEAT
★
ANGEL!

YEAH, SHE KNOWS. I TOLD HER THAT YOU'RE "FRIENDS."

...THAT I'M CONNECTED TO HONDA-SAN?

STOP GIVING ME WEIRD IMPRESSIONS OF HER BEFORE I MEET HER.

AND WHAT ABOUT HONDA-SAN?

HOW'S SHE BEEN SINCE THEN?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. SHE WON'T ACT ANY DIFFERENTLY.

HONDA-SAN ISN'T ACTING ANY DIFFERENTLY, EITHER.

ALL RIGHT.

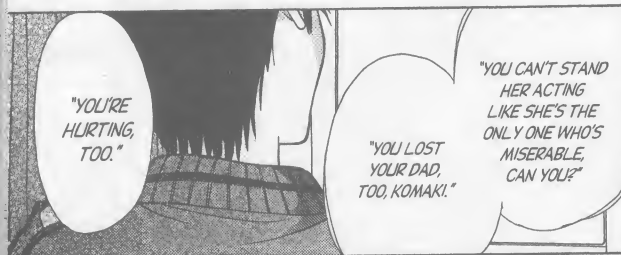


"YEAH."

"TO
HONDA-
SAN?"

"WAIT."

"YOU
ACTUALLY
SAID THAT
BACK
THERE?"



"YOU'RE
HURTING,
TOO."

"YOU LOST
YOUR DAD,
TOO, KOMAKI."

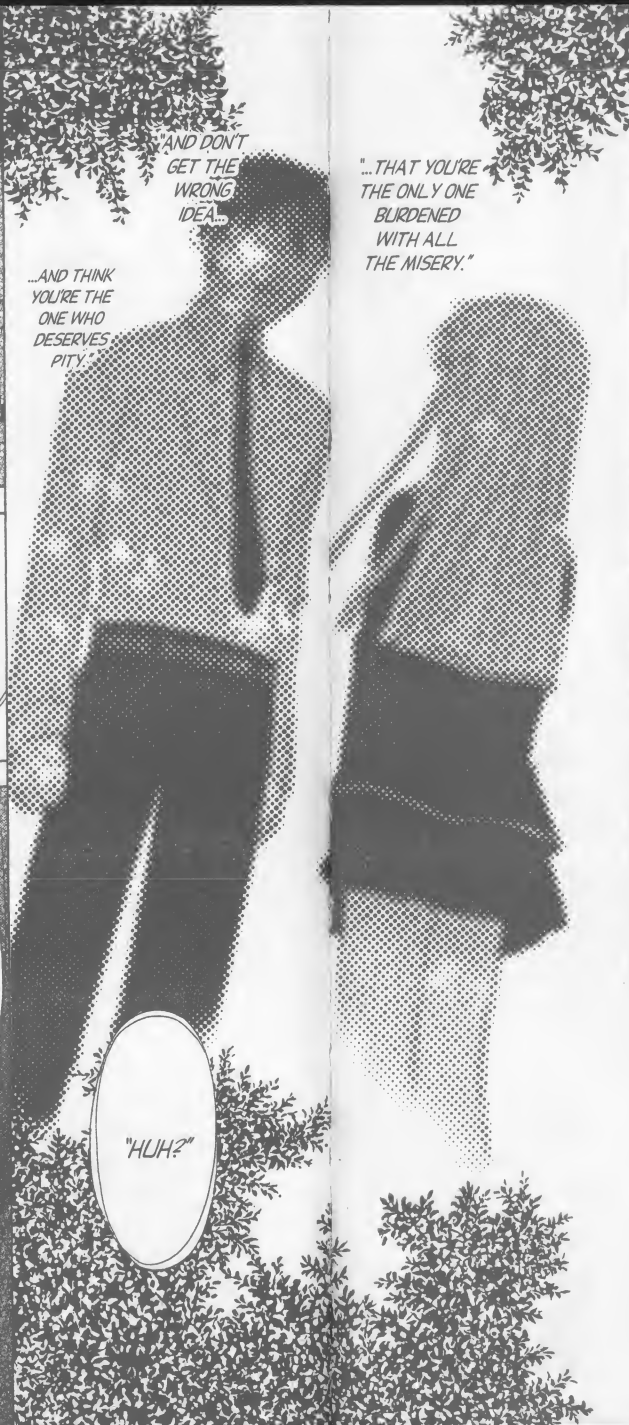
"YOU CAN'T STAND
HER ACTING
LIKE SHE'S THE
ONLY ONE WHO'S
MISERABLE,
CAN YOU?"



"... YOUR
PAIN AS
NOTHING."

"IT'S
LIKE SHE
SEES..."

"IT'S LIKE
SHE THINKS
HER MISERY
IS MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN YOURS."

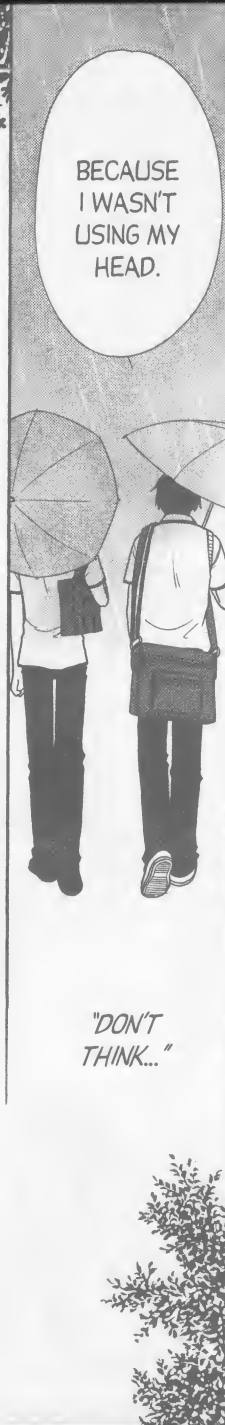


"AND DON'T
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA..."

"...AND THINK
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
DESERVES
PITY..."

"HUH?"

"...THAT YOU'RE
THE ONLY ONE
BURDENED
WITH ALL
THE MISERY."



BECAUSE
I WASN'T
USING MY
HEAD.

"DON'T
THINK..."



YEAH.

STILL...



...THAT'S
NEW.

I DIDN'T
KNOW UNTIL
RECENTLY.



UNTIL THEN...

...I GUESS I JUST ASSUMED STUFF ABOUT THE GIRL I'D EVENTUALLY FALL IN LOVE WITH.

LIKE WE'D LOOK AT THINGS THE SAME WAY.

AND SHE'D FEEL THE WAY I DID.



IT COMPLETELY FLOORED ME.

I JUST SAT THERE, STUNNED, AND HAD NO IDEA WHY SHE WAS CRYING.

BUT IN REALITY, KOMAKI WAS HURT...

...TO A DEGREE I HADN'T EVEN CONSIDERED.



"..."

"I KNOW THAT YOU SAID IT FOR MY SAKE."



"I KNOW THAT, BUT..."


は
た
"AND THEN TO WIN SOMETHING LIKE THAT?"

"BUT TO TRY AND JUDGE WHO'S MORE MISERABLE?"

"AND THEN..."



"THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY."



"THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPY."



I WANTED TO UNDERSTAND, EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY A LITTLE.

BECAUSE IF I DIDN'T...

...THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN MY BEING WITH HER.

OKAY.

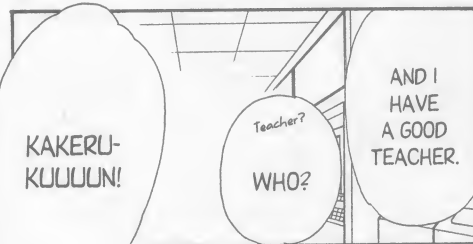


IT'S A DAILY DEVOTION OR SOMETHING.

Is that it?

YEAH, SORTA. I DON'T ALWAYS GET IT, BUT I'M STILL BETTER THAN I WAS.

I GUESS.



KAKERU-KUUUN!

Teacher?
WHO?

AND I HAVE A GOOD TEACHER.



HUH?

SO NOW YOU UNDERSTAND?



DID THAT MAKE YOU FEEL ALONE?

OH.

HUNH.



I DECIDED...

...I WANTED TO SEE THINGS THE WAY SHE DID.

SO THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL FEELING ALONE...?

...HEH.

I HEAR YOU'RE
A BIG FAN OF
MEAT. JUST A
LITTLE WHILE
AGO, KAKERU
CALLED YOU...

MEAT
★
ANGEL.

I'M
TROUBLE?!

IT'S OKAY.
I'M GETTING
USED TO IT.

KAKERU-KUN
DOESN'T TROUBLE
YOU LIKE THIS
EVERY DAY,
DOES HE?

JEEZ! WHY
ARE YOU
ALWAYS
DOING
THIS?!

QUIT
CALLING
ME WEIRD
NAMES!
JEEZ, JEEZ!

PLEASE DON'T
MIND HIM,
SOHMA-KUN!

THAT
SOUNDS
FAIR.

IF THERE'S
ANYTHING
I CAN DO,
PLEASE
JUST LET
ME KNOW!

WE GIRLS
HAVE TO
STICK
TOGETHER!

OH,
HEY.

YOU CAME ALL
THIS WAY TO
GREET US?

YUP. I
JUST
COULDN'T
WAIT!

WELCOME
HOME!

SEE?
SHE'S
SPACEY,
ISN'T
SHE?

WHA?!

YOU'RE
AWFULLY
CUTE.

Oh.
PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU. I'M
SOHMA...

PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU! I'M
KOMAKI
NAKAO.



I'M
GONNA GO
CHANGE.

BUT
WHATEVER
YOU DO,
PLEASE
DON'T LOOK!

WHAT
ARE YOU,
A CRANE?
JUST GO.



I REALLY AM
SORRY-I CAN'T
BELIEVE HOW
RUDE I WAS!

I DID THINK
THAT STORY
WAS A LITTLE
WEIRD, BUT...

ISN'T IT CUTE
HOW SHE
BELIEVES
EVERYTHING YOU
TELL HER?

THINK ABOUT
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE!



I THINK YOU HEARD
ABOUT IT FROM
KAKERU-KUN,
BUT SINCE THE
SITUATION WITH
HIS FAMILY'S BEEN
RESOLVED...

...HE'S BECOME
THE KAKERU-
KUN WE
KNOW NOW.

YEAH. IT WAS
LIKE HE WAS
ALWAYS MAD...
HE WAS HARD
TO APPROACH.

REALLY?

EVERYONE WAS
SURPRISED WHEN
HE CHANGED SO
SUDDENLY.

*Especially the
teachers. They
even cried.*

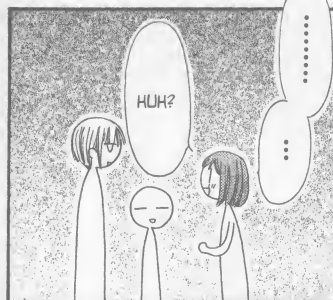


...SO HE'S
EVEN LIKE
THIS AT
HOME,
HUH?

THESE
DAYS HE IS.

BUT UNTIL
PARTWAY
THROUGH
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
HE WAS
INCREDIBLY
QUIET.

QUIET?!



HUH?



THAT WAS
A LIE.

...BECAUSE
OF FAMILY
ISSUES.

I THOUGHT
YOU
WERE IN
SCHOOL...

...DRESSED
AS A BOY...



BUT YOU'RE
REALLY
SOMETHING,
SOHMA-KUN.

YOU HONESTLY
DO LOOK JUST
LIKE A BOY!



I'M SO
SORRY!



IT'S A GOOD THING...

...YOU HAVE HIM, THEN.

YES!

OF COURSE IT IS!

MAYBE...



HUH?

ANYWAY.

...I'VE MADE IT THERE.



KAKERU-KUN IS KIND.

HE ALWAYS TRIES TO UNDERSTAND ME.

HE TRIES TO PROTECT ME.

SOMETIMES WE FIGHT, BUT EVEN THEN...

IT'S MEANINGFUL.

WOW.



...IS THAT WHEN YOU STARTED DATING HIM?

THAT'S RIGHT.

I LIKED HIM, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE LIKED ME BACK.

...THAT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.



IT DOES,
RIGHT?

Hey!
THAT BRINGS
ALL SORTS
OF WEIRD
IDEAS TO MIND,
DOESN'T IT?!

IT'S JUST
YOUR
IMAGINATION.
ISN'T THAT
SO, YUN-YUN?

YEAH.
IMAGINATION.

IN ORDER
TO MAKE IT
THERE...

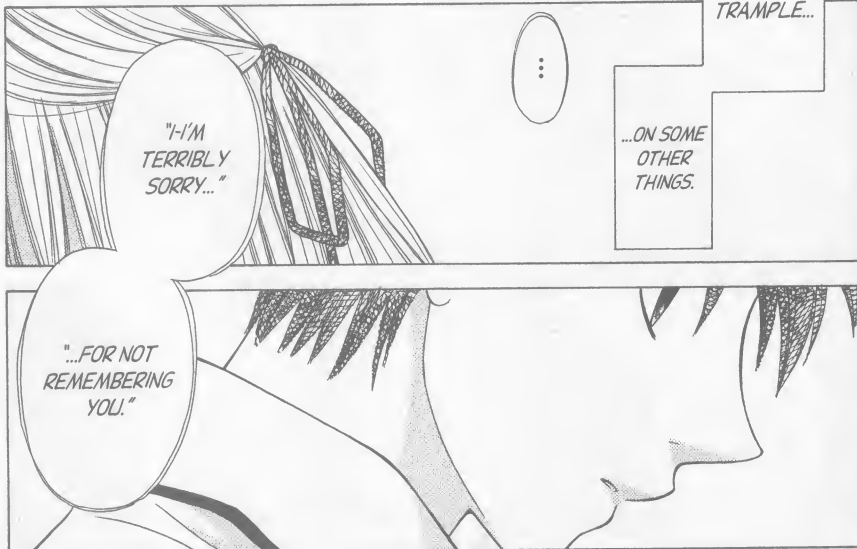
YOU'RE
LYING!

FRIED...

...
MEAT.

...I DID
TRAMPLE...

...ON SOME
OTHER
THINGS.



"I-I'M
TERRIBLY
SORRY..."

"...FOR NOT
REMEMBERING
YOU."



AT LEAST
A LITTLE.

JUST--
JUST--
NEVER
MIND!
JEEZ!

I'LL
START
DINNER!

Oh-
LET ME
HELP
YOU WITH
THAT.

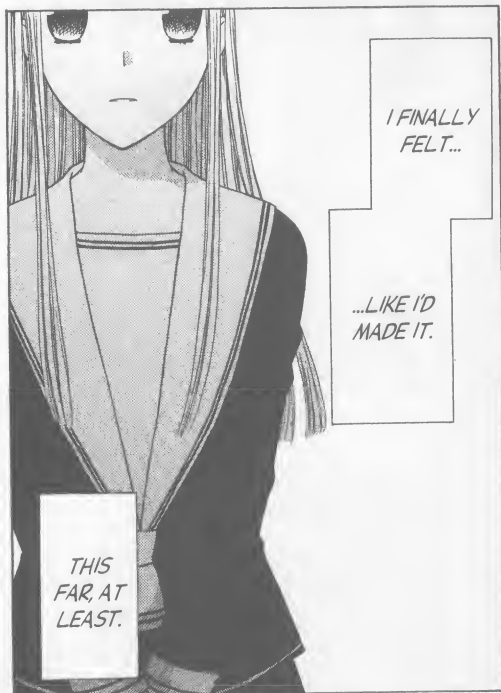
OH, YEAH--
WHAT'S ON THE
MENU TODAY?

YOU
DAMN
STUPID
COUPLE!

WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
YOU.

Are you
embarrassed?

YOU WERE
LISTENING?!



I FINALLY FELT...

...LIKE I'D MADE IT.

THIS FAR, AT LEAST.



"AGH."

I HAVE A WAYS TO GO.

BUT STILL.



"BY THE WAY."

"UM, HEY."

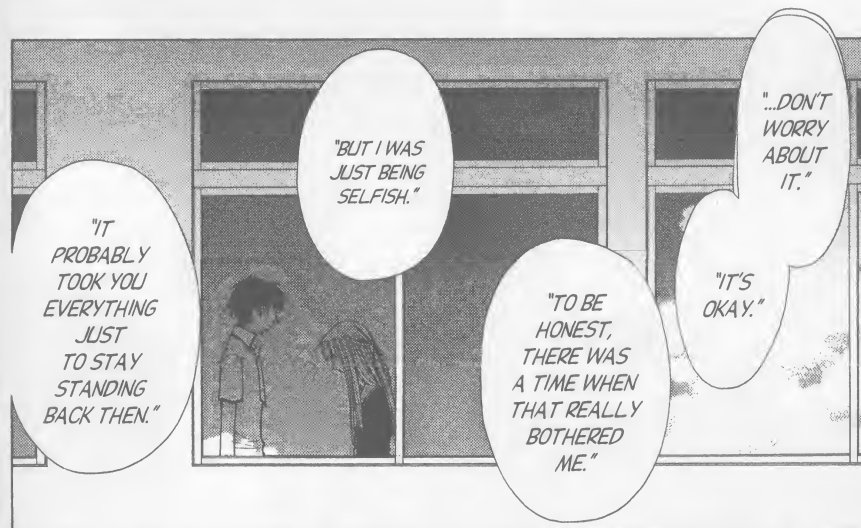


I HURT YOU.

I HURT KOMAKI.

I HURT YUKI.

AND THEN I FINALLY FELT LIKE I WAS STARTING TO UNDERSTAND.



"IT PROBABLY TOOK YOU EVERYTHING JUST TO STAY STANDING BACK THEN."

"BUT I WAS JUST BEING SELFISH."

"...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT."

"IT'S OKAY."

"TO BE HONEST, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THAT REALLY BOTHERED ME."



"BUT..."

"...THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW."

"I WAS BEING THOUGHTLESS."

"THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS..."

"...LOOK."

"I'M SORRY I..."

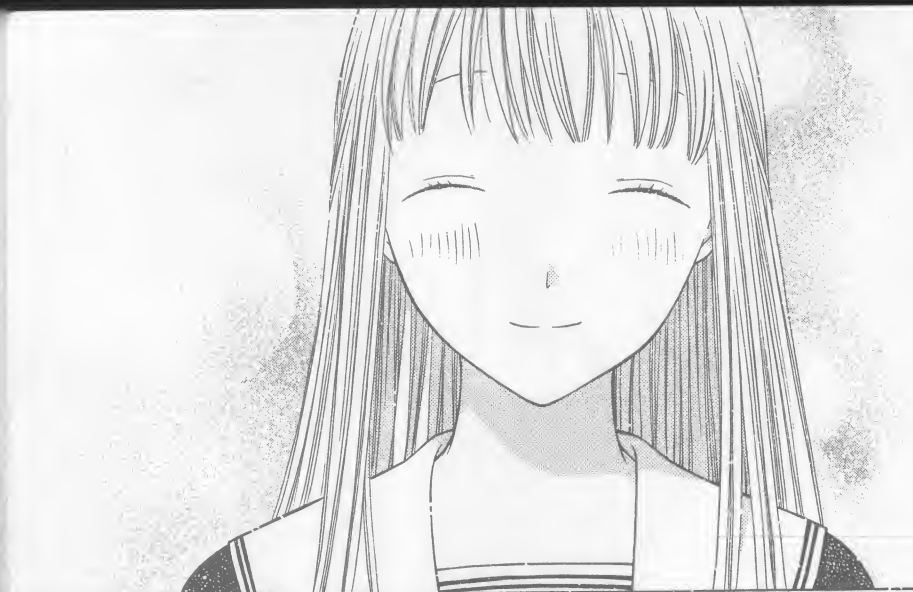
"...SAID THAT TO YOU."

"LITTLE BY LITTLE..."

"...I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND."

"...I JUST DON'T GET."

"KOMAKI GOT MAD AT ME, TOO."



FOR
SOME
REASON...

...I
WANTED
TO CRY
REALLY
BADLY.

THAT
SMILE.

I KNEW
THAT
SMILE.



"...I'M
GLAD."



"YOU
KNOW
KOMAKI?"

"SHE'S
DOING
OKAY."

"AND YOU
SEEM TO
BE DOING
OKAY, TOO."



"EVERY
DAY,
REALLY."

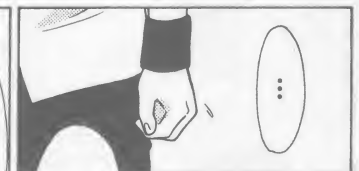


"...HE WAS
ABLE TO
MEET YOU,
MANABE-
SAN."

"HE
SMILES
OFTEN."

"AND I'M
SURE..."

"...THAT'S
BECAUSE..."



...



"YUKI-
KUN..."

"...SEEMS
TO BE
ENJOYING
HIMSELF
VERY
MUCH
THESE
DAYS."





IF THAT'S
THE WAY
THINGS
ARE GONNA
STAY...

...THEN
AT
LEAST...


...I
WANT
TO BE
KIND.



I WANT
TO REPAY
THEM.



I WANT THEM
TO BE REPAID...




WILL
I GET
TO SEE
HIM
AGAIN?

DEFINITELY.


I THINK
WE'RE
GONNA BE
HANGING
OUT FOR A
LONG TIME.

YEAH!
YOU
MAKE
A GOOD
DUO!

YEAH.



I'M
REALLY
GLAD I
GOT TO
MEET
HIM.



BUT THEY'RE
BOTH KINDA
SPACE
CASES, SO
THEY'RE NOT
GETTING
VERY FAR.

NO, I MEAN
BECAUSE OF
MACHI. IF HE
STICKS WITH
MACHI, WE'LL
BE RELATED
BY MARRIAGE!

OH, I
SEE!



... YOU HURT
SOMETHING
ELSE.

IN ORDER
TO KNOW
SOMETHING...

I feel so grateful!

Here we go!

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Mother-sama, Editor-sama...

...and everyone who reads
and supports this manga.

This has been
高屋 奈月 でした。
Natsuki Takaya



...MORE
THAN THE
NUMBER OF
TIMES...

WHAT?!

ARE YOU
SERIOUS,
KOMAKI-
CHAN?

HE WAS
THAT
PRETTY?!

...THEY
SMILED
FOR ME.



you
EMBARRASS
ME--I DIDN'T
WANT HIM
TO MEET YOU!
DON'T YOU FEEL
ANY SHAME?!

Hal Take
that!

I did do it
on purpose,
you hag!

I HOPE THE
LANDLORD
DOESN'T
GET MAD AT
US AGAIN.

UM...

Kakaru, you
little brat!

WHY DO YOU
SPECIFICALLY
CHOOSE A DAY
WHEN I'M OUT
LATE TO BRING A
GORGEOUS YOUNG
MAN OVER?! DID
YOU DO THAT
ON PURPOSE?!

To Be Continued in Volume 20...

Next time in...



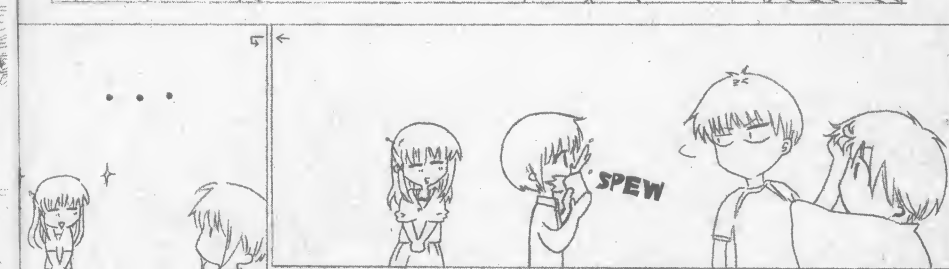
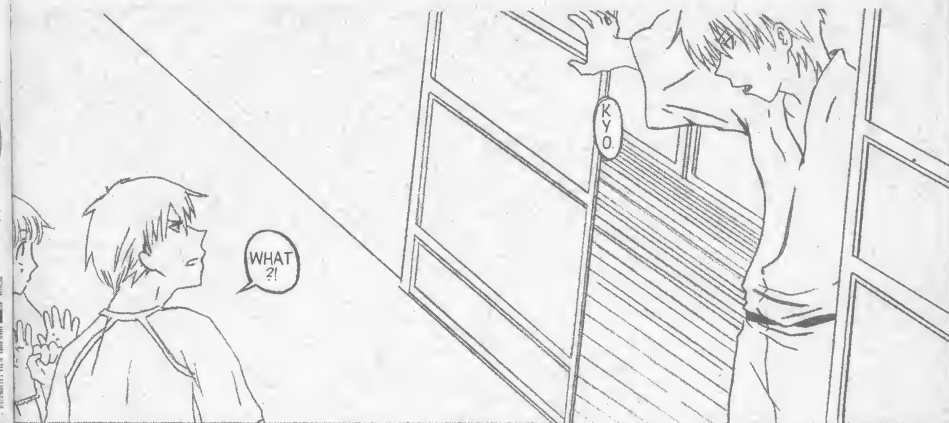
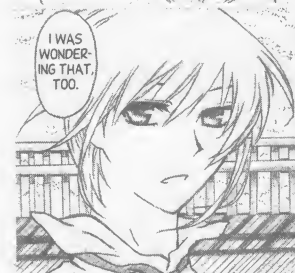
Killer Crush

Kagura and Kazuma hotly discuss Tohru liking Kyo. With Kagura's forceful encouragement, will Tohru be able to muster up the courage to tell Kyo how she feels? Meanwhile, Ren is determined to get her hands on Akito's mystery box--even if it means killing for it!

Fruits Basket Volume 20
Available July 2008





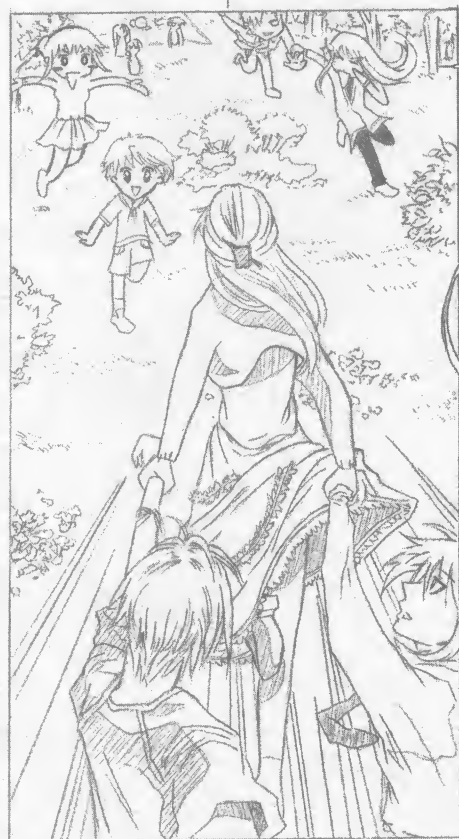
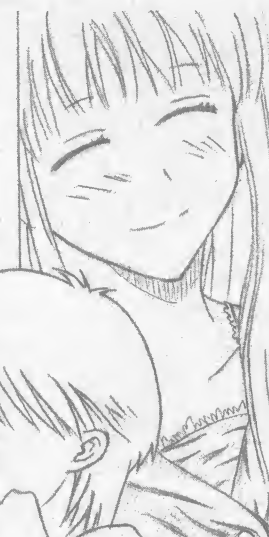




TURN
THE PAGE
TO READ
MORE OF
VAX'S
STORY!

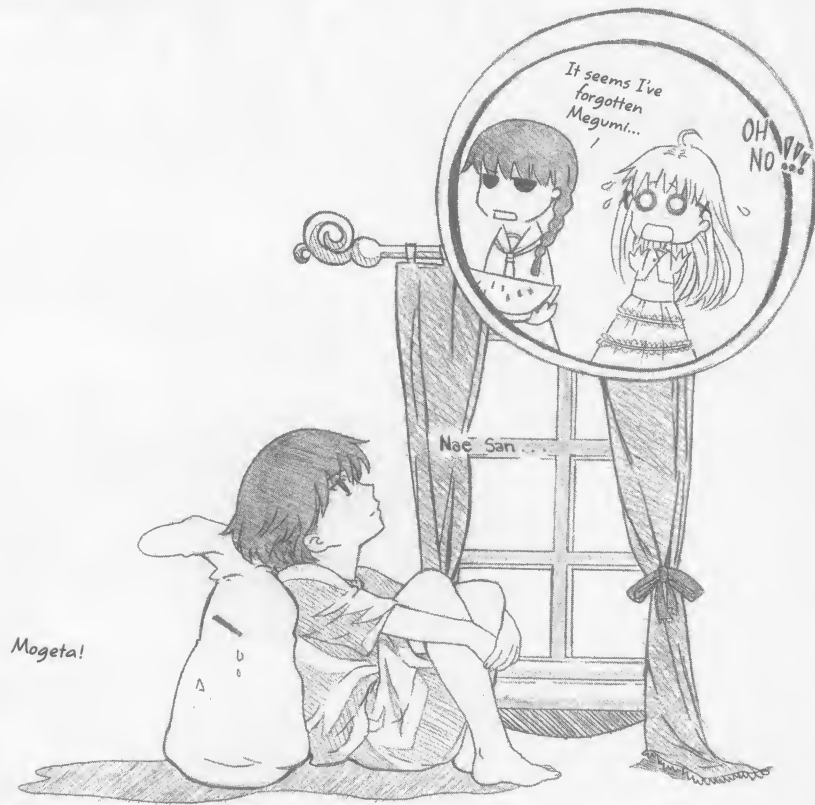






LET'S
GO.





THE END

